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<p>127</p> <p>E4361/48/9</p> <p>Chancery, Athens to E Dept 46/112/47</p> <p>Dated 16 May Received 23 May</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E4361 / G</p> <p>2</p>
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E4360 (E3632)</p> <p>References.</p>	<p>Illegal immigration from Greece</p> <p>Refs to Athens desp. 165 (E3379/48/9)</p> <p>Encloses further reply from the Greek M.F.A.</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p> <p>61808</p> <p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>Tel Athens 1179 May 30</p> <p>8/11 P ✓ Sunch</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>The 3 slips mentioned in our telegram NO. 725 (E2644) were the: AGIAS TRIAS, VASILAKIS, and ARCHANGELOS.</p> <p>M.I. 5 have no further information on the first and do not consider them at all important. The second is no longer suspect. The third, however, is very strongly suspect and regarded as important.</p> <p>I submit draft telegram accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i> C.S. & CABLE 29/5</p>	
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25/31/5</p> <p>(Index.)</p> <p>W.H.</p>	<p>I have added to the draft</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J.B. May 29</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p> <p>(E4909)</p> <p>E4363</p>	<p>30047 F.O.P.</p>	

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61808

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères

No. 25432

NOTE VERBALE

Le Ministère Royal des Affaires Etrangères présente ses compliments à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique et en réponse à sa Note sub No 146 datée du 16 Avril 1947, relative aux navires sous pavillon hellénique "Agia Trias", "Archangelos" et "Vassilakis" qui selon les informations des services Britanniques se livreraient au transport d'immigrés illicites en Palestine, et aux mesures à prendre à leur rencontre, a l'honneur de porter à sa connaissance ce qui suit:

Le Decret-Loi No 1746 de 1939 ne prévoyant pas au nombre des sanctions à imposer aux navires se livrant au transport d'immigrés illicites en Palestine leur radiation du registre public d'immatriculation des navires, le Ministère de la Marine Marchande dans le but de renforcer la législation existante en la matière, vient de préparer un projet de loi qui prévoit des peines plus sévères et notamment la confiscation des navires se livrant au transport illicite d'immigrés en Palestine.

Le Ministère Royal des Affaires Etrangères tient à assurer l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique que les autorités helléniques, soucieuses de coopérer dans toute la mesure du possible avec les services britanniques pour la repression de ce trafic, n'ont pas manqué de prendre à l'égard des navires en question des nouvelles mesures tendant à réunir les éléments utiles en vue de leur poursuite en justice. A ce propos, le Ministère Royal des Affaires Etrangères saurait gré à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique de bien vouloir lui fournir toute indication utile concernant l'activité illicite de ces trois navires et plus particulièrement des données relatives au navire "Agia Trias", notamment son port d'attache, son tonnage, son numéro d'enregistrement, le nom de son propriétaire, étant donné que plus de vingt navires sous pavillon hellénique portent ce même nom.

Le Ministère Royal des Affaires Etrangères saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique les assurances de sa très haute considération.

Athènes, le 6 mai, 1947.

A l'Ambassade
de Sa Majesté Britannique,
En Ville

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Reference:

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be discussing the whole question next week.

JB. May 24

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61808

(E 4361/48/G)
SECRET
Cyphe r/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ATHENS

No. 1179
30th May, 1947

D. 3.45 p.m. 31st May, 1947

dddddd

Your Chancery letter 46/112/47 of 16th May
[illegal immigrant ships].

You will see from the latest list of suspect shipping that the "Vasilakis" is omitted, being no longer considered to be involved in the traffic. We have no further information about the "Aglas Trias" and in view of the number of vessels of this name we agree that any action by the Greek authorities should be suspended.

2. Please consult suspect list for latest details on the "Archangelos". This ship is strongly suspect and you should request the Greek Government to do everything possible to prevent her leaving Marseilles to embark illegal immigrants.

3. We have been in touch with the Greek Embassy and the Greek Shipping Committee here and have warned them about the ships referred to in my telegrams Nos. 1105 and 1133. Please report urgently what action the Greek Government are taking in this matter as the Ministerial Committee on illegal immigration will be discussing the whole question next week.

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128 1947
 Palestine
 EASTERN
 E4363 /G
 23 MAY 1947

E4363/48/9
 Mr. Hall Daily
 to Mr. Bevin
 Dated 17 May
 Received 23 May

Sale of British vessels for
 illegal immigration
 gives information regarding
 sale of ex-naval vessels to
 Greeks.

Last Paper.
 E4361 (E4258)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)
 The "Anal" has now arrived.
 This paper will be considered
 with other Greek aspects of the
 illegal immigration problem when
 we receive a reply from Athens
 to our recent tels.
 B. V. 23 July
 J. B. June 3
 July 24

(Action completed.)
 23/7/47

(Index.)
 W.P.

Next Paper.
 (E4370)
 E4366

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Reference: FO 371 / 61808

22 MAY 1947

*E. Jeph
JA
19/5*



E
Enter 10
EH863

17th May, 1947.
25 MAY 1947

Mr. Ernest

I promised to let you have any information we might possess about the sale of British vessels to Greeks who are either themselves engaged in the illegal immigrant traffic or who have sold the vessels they have bought from us to illegal traffic organisers.

I find that we know of five ex-Naval vessels which have been sold to Greek firms, whom we have subsequently found to be engaged in the illegal immigrant traffic. These vessels, their present location and their purchasers, are shown on the attached list.

We have no information of any ships which have reached the hands of illegal immigrant organisers through the intermediary of Greek firms.

*Yours sincerely
Bevin*

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.

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TOP SECRET

LUCIA (ex Submarine Depot Ship)

Sold in October 1946 to Cia. Maritima Geojunior of Panama (Greek Director FOKIAS). Now lying at Plymouth. Steps have been taken to prevent engine repairs or conversion to passenger-carrying being done.

LOWESTOFT (Sloop)

Sold in November 1946 to Cia. Maritima Geojunior of Panama as above. Now lying at Cardiff. She is immobile and all steps have been taken to prevent her leaving.

SHOREHAM (Sloop)

Sold in November 1946 to Cia. Maritime Geojunior of Panama as above. Now lying at Cardiff. All possible steps have been taken to prevent her leaving.

SNAPDRAGON (Sloop)

Sold to Cia. de Vapores Albatros, of Panama, (Director LYKIARDOPOULOUS and others). Now lying at Haarlem.

EARL OF ZETLAND (Sloop), renamed ANAL

Sold in December 1946 to Greek named PELIDES. Now lying in the Mediterranean.

Arrived Palestine

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61808

129 1947
 Palestine
 EASTERN

E4366 / G 12
 22 MAY 1947

E4366 / 48 / C

Illegal immigration
 weekly file
 19 May - 24 May.

Last Paper.
 E4863

References.
 E3756 / 48 / C.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
 700 Athens 105
 20 May
 RFD Copenhagen
 240
 8) 11P 22 May

(Action completed.) DE 22/10	(Index.) kept.
---------------------------------	-------------------

Next Paper.
 E4368

(Minutes.)
 1. Paris Tel 122 Sav. of 15 May - 11P 22/5
 2. Brussels 206 of 17 May
 3. Copenhagen 229 of 20 May - 11P 22/5
 4. Copenhagen 231 of 21 May - 11P 22/5
 JB June 25
 5) Paris no 447. 72/243/47. of 30 May.

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E4212/4819

CYPHER/CTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 122 Saving.
May 15th, 1947.

R. 10.20.a.m. May 19th, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem (for High Commissioner)
No. 7.

6 6 6 6 6

Your telegram No. 769 and Despatch No.
586.

Illegal Immigrant vessels.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs were urged
on May 14th to take all possible steps to prevent
the embarkation of any illegal immigrants on
Archangelos and to prevent, or failing that delay,
sailing, if she tries to leave empty.

Foreign Office please repeat in cypher
to Jerusalem as my telegram No.7.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial
Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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E3456/48/9

14

En clair

FILES

FROM BRUSSELS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Harrison D. Untimed. 17th May, 1947.
No: 206 R. 6. 15 p.m. 17th May, 1947.
17th May, 1947.

11111

Your despatch No. 338 paragraph 4.

Please furnish three (repeat three)

copies of weekly list.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61808

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4276/48/c

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM COPENHAGEN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Rose
No. 229

D. 3.10 p.m. 20th May, 1947.

20th May, 1947.

R. 5.40 p.m. 20th May, 1947.

MOST IMMEDIATE

MMMMMM

Your despatch No. 197 of May 9th: Jewish illegal immigration.

San Eusebid obtained Greek (repeat Greek) registry today and Eliadis, the nominal owner, is here and expected to settle debts on her and Basilio (now at Gothenburg) immediately with dollars for which he has telegraphed United States. Danish authorities will not (repeat not) be able to hold the ship while her new registry is valid and there are no charges against the ship.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61808

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Registry
No.

16

Despatched 2/5 M.

Draft.

Athens

Telegram.

1105 ✓

20/5

Cyprus

Elect. no. 2

Repeat

Copenhagen
(important)

240 ✓

Copies !!P

IMMEDIATE

Copenhagen tel. no. 229 [of
May 20: Jewish illegal
immigration]

Panamanian Govt.

Cancelled registration
of JAN EUSEBIO on
the ground that she
was destined for illegal
immigrant traffic and
ELIAS ^{himself} IS deeply
implicated in the
traffic.

2. Please request Greek
Govt. most urgently
to withhold Greek
registration. They can
hardly do less than
the Panamanian Govt.
if there is likely to
be delay in withholding
or

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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or cancelling registration
you should ask Greek
authorities to request Danish
authorities to hold the
ship pending such action.

LB May 20

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ATHENS

No: 1105
20th May, 1947.

D. 3. 50 a.m. 21st May, 1947.

Repeated to Copenhagen No. 240 (Important).

11111

IMMEDIATE

Copenhagen telegram No. 229 [of May 20th: Jewish illegal immigration].

Panamanian Government cancelled registration of Jan Eusebio on the ground that she was destined for illegal immigrant traffic and Eliadis himself is deeply implicated in the traffic.

2. Please request Greek Government most urgently to withhold Greek registration. They can hardly do less than the Panamanian Government. If there is likely to be delay in withholding or cancelling registration you should ask Greek authorities to request Danish authorities to hold the ship pending such action.

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23 MAY 1947

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E4408

23 MAY 1947

British Embassy,

Paris.

20th May, 1947.

19

72/243/47

No. 447.

SECRET

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 586 (E3756/48/G) of 9th May 1947 on the subject of shipping suspected of being involved in the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic, I have the honour to request that I be provided in future with six copies of the weekly summaries, one of which will be kept by myself, two by the Visa Section of this Embassy, and the remaining three will be sent to His Majesty's Consular Officers at Marseilles, Bordeaux and Nice.

I shall be glad if you will provide me with five copies of the enclosures to your despatch under reference.

I have the honour to be, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Duff Cooper

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

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Mrs FIRBY

4366

Please put
this in weekly
reply file. We
are already sending

~~in dept~~
them 6 copies and
there is no need to
send back numbers.

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61808

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E
E4366 G

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CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM COPENHAGEN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Randall.
No. 231.

D: 10.37 a.m. 21st May, 1947.

21st May, 1947.

R: 1.40 p.m. 21st May, 1947.

Repeated to: Athens.

OOO OOO OOO

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Your telegram No. 1,105 to Athens.

San Eusebio ship has not yet obtained Greek registry which Greek Consul here is not empowered to grant without instructions. Elisdis has been advised by the latter to apply to Greek shipping commission in London.

Foreign Office please repeat Immediate to Athens as my telegram No. 1.

[Repeated to Athens Immediate.]

22 MAY 1947

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<p>130 1947</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E4362 /G 22 22 MAY 1947</p>
<p>E4368 /48/C Mr Eyles Angora 383 Dated 21 May Received 22 May</p>	<p>Legal immigration Refs to Angora (a) 338 (E3684/48/C) Report conversation with M.F.A regarding Turkish ships.</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E4366</p>	<p>(Minutes.) Now see E4654 <i>[Signature]</i> 2/6</p>	
<p>References.</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.) B) 11 P ✓ 22 May</p>		
<p>(Action completed.) SF 1/6</p>	<p>(Index.) W.H.</p>	
<p>Next Paper. E4408</p>		

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61808**

22 MAY 1947

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E4368

22 MAY 1947

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

CYPHER/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM ANGORA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Eyres.
No. 383.

D: 8.55 a.m. 21st May, 1947.

21st May, 1947.

R: 2.30 p.m. 21st May, 1947.

000 000 000

SECRET

My telegram No. 338. *e/a*

Illegal Immigration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs have informed me verbally that Ministry of Communications have investigated the case of the "[grp.undec.]lderan" and state that she has not (repeat not) carried illegal immigrants. I am promised official reply in writing.

22 MAY 1947

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E 4377

24

1947

23 MAY

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E4377/48/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Paris

Dated

1450

Received in Registry

21 May 1947

23

Illegal Immigration Paris Discussions.
Re Paris tel 126 leaving (E4402/48/31)
New French copy of note to M. Bouquet
dated 20 May 1947. re illegal immigration
from France to Palestine.

Last Paper.

4368

(Minutes.)

References.

See E4402 a minute
copy sent to Co. JB May 2
(Copy also to Comdr. Evershed)

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, ~~Higham~~
P.O.
✓ May 28
Proc ated
8, ~~Hander Evershed~~
✓ June 4

(Action completed)

REMB/5/6

(Index.)

WSE
24/4/48

Next Paper.

4402

32003 F.O.P

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FO 371 / 61808

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No. 450.

25
E

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Paris
presents his compliments to **H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A.**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British..... **Embassy,**.....
..... **Paris.**.....

E 4377
21st May, 1947.
23 MAY

Reference to previous correspondence:

Paris telegram No. 126 (S) of 20th May, 1947.
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note to Monsieur Bousquet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 20th May, 1947.	Illegal emigration to Palestine.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61808**

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British Embassy,

Paris.

26

20th May, 1947.

I write to place on record the main points of our discussion on May 12th regarding the measures which the French Government has taken to control illegal emigration to Palestine from French ports or the use of French ports by vessels destined for this traffic.

I am having a draft note of the meeting prepared which I think/might be useful for us to agree on both sides in order to cover the entire field of our discussion. I am therefore limiting myself in this letter to the points of major substance.

You began by recalling the measures proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their Note of the 24th April to the Embassy which are designed to ensure, on the one hand, the verification of the validity of visas of ultimate destination presented by foreigners wishing to leave France and, on the other hand, a strict control of vessels in French ports in accordance with the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and with the French legislation of 1933. You then informed us of an order recently issued by General Koenig whereby

- 1) the Displaced Persons Directorate of the zone will inform the Directorates of Transport and Security of the timetable and composition of authorised trains which are to carry displaced persons;

- 2) all other trains carrying displaced persons will automatically be considered as carrying clandestine immigrants.

You added that the French Government request that the latter trains be taken back into the zone from which they came.

You suggested that His Majesty's Government might join with the French Government in pressing a request which they have already made to the United States Government to give a similar undertaking in so far as the United States zone is concerned. You added in reply to my enquiry that measures similar to those arranged by General Koenig would be adopted in the French zone of Austria.

You then referred to two points about which your Ministry had enquired in its note of the 24th April. The first question was whether the British zone would agree to take back from France any non-French persons discovered to have entered France thence illegally. I replied that while no comments had yet been received by us from the British authorities in Germany, I thought it could safely be assumed that we would agree.

/Since....

Monsieur Bousquet,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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2.

Since the meeting I have received a telegram from Berlin accepting your proposal in the case of clandestine immigrants to France who can be proved to have come originally from the British zone of Germany.

The second enquiry made in your note was whether the United Kingdom would agree to the quota for entry into Palestine being distributed among the 3 western zones in proportion to the number of would-be emigrants in each zone. You explained that the French Cabinet attached importance to this point. I informed you that this matter had been given favourable consideration in London but that here also the comments of the British authorities in Germany were awaited.

I am now able to inform you that, while His Majesty's Government are prepared to make an allocation to the French zone, they would not feel able to extend the limited Palestine quota to the United States zones of Germany and Austria which, as you are aware, already benefit from an exclusive quota for emigration to the United States of America. You have since added that you would hope that a quota could be allocated for the 8000 admitted to France.

You recalled that the provisional agreement on the control of entry into and exit from the 3 western zones of Germany which was drafted in Paris last January had been fully accepted by General Koenig but not by the other two zones. We agreed that it would be desirable for our two Governments to press that the British and United States Zonal Commanders should expedite their final acceptance and implementation of this agreement.

You pointed out that the execution of the measures now decided upon in the French zone of Germany would result in the Franco-Belgian frontier becoming the only considerable loophole through which illegal immigrants could enter France. I undertook to suggest to my Government that representations might be made to the Belgian Government requesting the latter to tighten the controls on the Belgian side of the frontier.

I expressed the hope that the arrangements you are now making would prevent the departure of illegal immigrants from France because should they fail His Majesty's Government would wish to press the French Government to receive back illegal immigrants who in future reach Palestinian waters from French ports. You replied that this proposal would present serious difficulties to your Government since France was simply, for these immigrants, a country of transit. You agreed, however, to consider permitting the return to France of any illegal immigrants reaching Palestine, who could be shown to have entered France under the French transit quota of 8,000.

I should be glad if you would confirm that I have correctly stated the various points of our discussion recorded above and that you are in agreement with the suggestions which this letter contains.

H. ASHLEY CLARKE.

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Reference:					
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25-1 (N 300 253)

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E 4402 28

1947

PALESTINE

23 MAY

Registry Number } E 4402/48/31
TELEGRAM FROM

No. M. Duff Cooper
Paris.

Dated }
Received in Registry } 126 Paris
20 May 1947
23

Illegal Immigration Paris Discussions
Re: Paris of 893 (E 3947/48/31) letter
to M. Manteau for Lady M. Bousquet and
at Paris to agree text of letter to be addressed
to M. Bousquet in explanation of arrangement
made at meeting of May 12.

Last Paper.

4377

(Minutes.)

References.

C 6877/6688/18

Please see E 4377/48/31 which contains the draft of a letter from Mr. Ashley-Clarke to M. Bousquet as finally agreed with the French authorities. As far as I can see, this draft is exactly on the lines of the original letter drafted when Mr. Higham and I were in Paris except that it omits even an oblique reference to the French promise to keep us informed of the check they maintain on visas of ultimate destination and nominal rolls of applicants for French transit and exit visas.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Sir N. Lloyd
Stafford Smith } P.O.
Higham

Proctor } H.O.
Rees }
As Maitre }
Dodd } Adamsky
Macaseh }

P.T.O.

(Action completed)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 4408

The history of this question is briefly as follows. When we put renewed pressure on the French Government as a result of the Defence Committee's recommendations of March 12th, the latter, before agreeing to hold discussions with us, made certain concrete suggestions for improving the control of departures from the South of France. One of these proposals was that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should in future be enabled to establish a check on all visas of ultimate destination of groups leaving France (i.e. they would be shown the visas in advance so that they could consult the competent mission or consulate as to their authenticity). We immediately asked that the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs should consult our Embassy as well as the representative of the country of destination at the time they established their check. We continued to press this suggestion at the discussions with the French authorities on May 12th, and at a subsequent informal meeting with M. Vasse of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reached a satisfactory agreement to the effect that our Embassy would be given all possible facilities on the official level to check up on both nominal rolls and visas of groups leaving France. The Ministry made it clear that they did not wish to be bound to this in black and white owing to the pro-Jewish complexion of the Cabinet. But what has now happened (see paragraph 2 within) is that the Ministry have gone back on the whole principle of providing us with information of the details of these group movements and our Embassy have only been able to suggest the alternative described in paragraph 3 within (the provision by us of nominal rolls of people arriving in

32008 F.O.P.

Palestine/.

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Palestine ~~from France~~ to be checked against the Ministry's information of groups leaving France).

The French attitude is most unsatisfactory. It is, of course, true that in entering into these details with the French authorities we are encroaching on matters of French internal sovereignty. If the French authorities had done anything to control departures from the South of France, we should never have sought to enter into such details at all. As it is, we have been forced to make the running and suggest methods by which the French authorities (and in particular Departments like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who are comparatively well disposed towards us) might improve their own control of the Jewish immigrant traffic. I do not feel inclined to haggle further with the French in these matters of detail and I think we can tell Paris that we are prepared to accept the draft as it stands but that:-

- (a) we are disappointed by their ^{French} attitude and in agreeing to the draft are relying on their good faith in taking proper measures themselves to prevent further departures,
- (b) that our attitude on German workers will inevitably be influenced by the doubtful character of the assurances given to us by the French on illegal immigration,
- (c) that if, in spite of our recent negotiations, departures should continue, we shall press the question of "refoulement" more strongly.

I have discussed this with Mr Higham of Co. who concurs generally.

J.G.S. Beith
(J.G.S. Beith)

NB. Paris have asked for an indication of our views by telephone today. Germany Dept. ✓ JG/b.

28th May, 1947.

As we are going to give the French the facilities they want to recruit German workers, I think that we should tell the French quite clearly now that these facilities will be withdrawn if Jewish illegal immigrants continue to leave France for Palestine.

Tel. sent to Paris
12 May 28.

W. J. Carter
28/5

Pollock? } W.D.
Blanton } }

Robertson? } M.I.F.
Belser } }

Wester? } My
Wood } Department

Brown? } Room
Oldfield } 17.

Murray? } Pak
Couchard } off

Pollock. M.E.I.P.
on E4256/84/31
May 27

L. Paris 908,
29 May.

Rptd. Berlin 1579
W. Jan 5279

of to about.

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E4326/84/31 5 Same

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61808

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Mr Butler

INDEXED ^{Minutes.}
INDEXED

30

German Dept. have asked me to attend a meeting to discuss final instructions to Paris on the recruitment of German Labour at 11 am. June 3rd.

I think I had better go to prevent the Jewish angle going quite by default, but I am afraid that we shall not get much further ammunition now.

J.S. Beint
June 2

But wik
JB June 4

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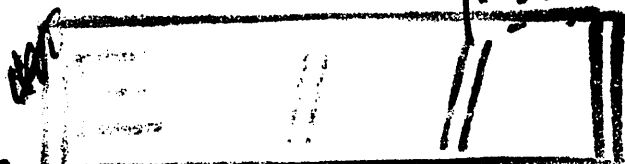
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Minutes.

INDEXED

ASB 31.5
German Department.
Eastern Department.



31

5 JUN 1947

Sir O. Sargent drew my attention today to the last three lines of this telegram and said that it went further than he had intended when he discussed the draft, as our present policy towards recruitment of labour in Germany could not possibly be described as 'forthcoming.' I therefore rang up Mr. Ahsley Clarke and told him to go easy on this in his negotiations. He told me that he had already seen M. Bousquet and had himself toned down this part of the instructions for this very reason. I accordingly approved his action.

W. R. O. HAY

W. R.

30th May, 1947.

Tell me 31/v.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61808

Mr. Butler.

Foreign Office telegram No. 901 to Paris about the recruitment of labour for France in Germany.

You will find on E 4402/48/31 minutes by the Eastern Department explaining the present position in regard to our negotiations with the French on illegal immigration to Palestine from French ports together with a recommendation as to the line we should take with the French Government in linking this question with that of the recruitment of labour in Germany. The form of words suggested in Mr. Baxter's minute is such as to impress the French Government with the seriousness with which we view this matter but I am afraid that paragraph 5 of our telegram No. 901 to Paris would give a false impression of our attitude.

Ministerial approval has been given to the linking of these two questions, in the sense that if the French do not give us satisfaction on illegal immigration we shall not meet them on the recruitment of labour. The paper, which bears a minute by the Minister of State, is in action, but I am trying urgently to get hold of it.

I had cleared with the Secretary of the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration into Palestine and with the Colonial Office, the line suggested in the minutes on E 4402. The Foreign Office will undoubtedly be under heavy fire in the Official Committee when they see the terms of paragraph 5 of our telegram No. 901 to Paris and the Committee themselves are answerable to a Ministerial Committee headed by the Secretary of State. Both Committees are prepared to put heavy pressure on foreign Governments who are aiding and abetting illegal immigration and France ~~comes~~ first among these.

The matter is one of great urgency since the Embassy at Paris are having a meeting with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon and would like final instructions on paragraph 5 before they start their talks.

J.G.S. Beith
(J.G.S. Beith).
29th May, 1947.

P.T.O.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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33

Discussed with Mr Butler, Sir
O. Harvey and Sir G. Sargent.

Draft amended and
agreed by German Dept.

H. S. Davis
May 28

Tel. sent
H. S. Davis
May 28

In P.P. 7.0. minute Sir Beth 2/6.
Sir O. Harvey 30/5.

JB June 16

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference: **EO** 371 / 61808

CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO:2

E. 34

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Duff Cooper

No:126 Saving

R.10.25 a.m. 22nd May 1947

20th May 1947

Repeated to Berlin NO:65 (Cypher)
Rome NO:71 (Cypher)

4 4 4 4

E 4402
23 MAY

SECRET

My telegram No:593.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

His Majesty's Minister yesterday met M. Bousquet of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and M. Pages Ministry of Interior to agree text of letter to be addressed by His Majesty's Minister to M. Bousquet in confirmation of arrangements made at meeting of May 12th. Text as amended follows by bag.

2. It had always been clear between us and M. Bousquet that while M. Bousquet was to seek authorisation from M. Bidault to inform us of the results of his Ministry's enquiries into the validity of visas of ultimate destination and to let us have confidentially nominal rolls of applicants for French transit and exit visas there should be no mention of this on paper. M. Bousquet now requested that the whole proposal should be abandoned since, it would cause embarrassment to M. Bidault, most of whose cabinet colleagues were reluctant to act against the Jews, and would in any event consider the proposal slighting to French good faith and sovereignty.

3. Further argument having led nowhere Mr Ashley Clarke asked whether as regards nominal rolls M. Bousquet would agree that we should communicate to Ministry of Foreign Affairs lists of illegal immigrants actually arriving in Palestine, asking the Ministry to check whether they had applied for French visas. (The difficulty here would be to establish the identity of these people at the Palestine end, but Mr Higham and Mr Beith indicated when in Paris that this would be considered satisfactory). We also pressed for informal communication of the results of enquiries into the validity of visas.

4. It was agreed that M. Bousquet would raise the whole subject with M. Bidault on receipt of a further letter to be addressed to him by His Majesty's Minister, which would not be shown to other ministries. The above discussion took place before the arrival of M. Pages.

5./

MAY 23 1947

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(2)

5. French returned to the charge on their suggestion that official immigration quota should be spread over the three Western Zones in due proportion. They insist that it is most unwise to deny share to United States Zone, since Jews there will consider illegal immigration their only hope, and as United States Zone touches French frontier they will enter France clandestinely. They also requested that a proportion be made available for Jews in France under the 8,000 quota who would thereby be encouraged to wait and not to leave illegally.

6. We resisted these proposals, pointing out that the United States Zone already benefits from an exclusive quota for United States of America, that we dislike the 8,000 quota and would have preferred to see it abolished and that legal quota is so small, particularly in view of the need to drain numbers away from Cyprus, that it would scarcely lend itself to spreading over four territories. French for first time then protested that it was quite illogical that half the quota be reserved for those caught red-handed in illegal immigration, and that while this continued Jews would be encouraged to embark illicitly, knowing that even if caught they would stand a better chance of eventually getting into Palestine from Cyprus than from elsewhere. They added that they would be willing to see the quota for the French zone reduced if a share were given to Metropolitan France. His Majesty's Minister agreed to request your views, regarding both France and the United States Zone. They had of course already been given your first re-action concerning the United States Zone. Whatever the final arrangement they will want to know the exact size of their share of the quota as soon as possible.

7. Some further minor modifications were made in the draft to be addressed to M. Bousquet. Details by bag.

8. Please repeat in cypher to Berlin and Rome as my telegrams NOs: 65 and 71 respectively.

[Repeated to Berlin and Rome].

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Registry No. E4402/48/31

OUT FILE 36

Despatched 7 58 P M.

Draft.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Paris

Your tel. No. 126 Saving and my tel. No. 901 [of May 20th and May 28th: Jewish illegal immigration and recruitment of German labour for France].

Telegram.

No. 908

Date May 29th

We are ~~some~~ disturbed by the unwillingness of the French Government to ~~bind themselves with regard to~~ *associate us with* certain measures for ~~coordinating~~ the control of Jewish illegal immigration through France ~~to which they had previously agreed that we should jointly enforce, coordinate.~~ Nevertheless we agree that these measures are

Repeated to:

Berlin 1549.

Washington 5249.

~~essentially a matter of French internal arrangements; and we should not have had to enter into these details if it had not been for the heavy flow of illegal immigrants from the South of France. Nevertheless we~~

Cabinet distribution

Cypher

Copies I. I. P.

8788 29/5
German Dept.

Just
HB May 28

UM 28/5

~~We still~~ *nevertheless we* ~~consider that French goodwill, as shown by results, is~~ *more* more important than any particular detailed measure of control and we therefore approve the terms of the draft letter from Mr. Ashley Clarke to M. Bousquet providing

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providing^{ed} you make it clear orally in this connection and also in your discussions on the recruitment of labour in Germany that ~~the facilities we are granting for such recruitment cannot be continued indefinitely if Jewish illegal immigration from France continues.~~

any continuation of illegal immigration from France to Palestine ~~would~~ would make it difficult for us to maintain our ^{present forthcoming} ~~independent~~ policy as regards the recruitment of ~~German~~ Labour in Germany.

MR.
29/5

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OUT FILE

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

E4402/48/31

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 908

May 29th, 1947. D. 7.05 p.m. May 29th, 1947.

Repeated to Berlin No. 1579
Washington No. 5279

SSSSS

MOST IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 126 Saving and my telegram No. 901 [of May 20th and May 28th: Jewish illegal immigration and recruitment of German labour for France].

We are disturbed by the unwillingness of the French Government to associate us with certain measures for the control of Jewish illegal immigration through France which they had previously agreed that we should jointly co-ordinate. Nevertheless we consider that the general French attitude, as shown by results (repeat results) is more important than any particular detailed measure of control and we therefore approve the terms of the draft letter from Mr. Ashley Clarke to M. Bousquet provided you make it clear orally in this connexion and also in your discussions on the recruitment of labour in Germany that any continuation of illegal immigration from France to Palestine would make it difficult for us to maintain our present forthcoming policy as regards the recruitment of labour in Germany.

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Piece 61808

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E 4420/48/31
E 4429

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Reference: FO 371 / 61808

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1947

E

PALESTINE

E 4497

28 MAY

39

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 4497/45/31

Miss Scott
Bell.

28 May 1947

Illegal Immigration.Transmits copy of article appearing
in "Illustrated" by Maurice Pearlman,
few comments as usual.

Last Paper.

29
4485

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. abolished
P.O.
from M. Goble
✓ May 31(Action
completed.)

J. E. M. 2/6

(Index.)

M. G. 10/20

Next Paper.

45-22

(Minutes.)

The writer makes one point deserving consideration, namely: is a British journalist who has advance knowledge of an attempt to enter Palestine illegally and who, instead of informing the authorities, takes part in the attempt, liable to prosecution as an accessory before the fact?

I think this might well be taken up with the C.O.

Letter to Mr. Mathison.

[Signature]
29/5

J.B. May 28

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FO 371 / 61808

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E 40

204 Keyes House

Dolphin Square

London. S.W.1.

To the secretary in charge of Jewish affairs

E 4497

28 MAY

Dear Sir,

How is it that a man enjoying British citizenship is permitted to write an article like the enclosed from "Illustrated" glorifying an illegal action and how is it that such an action ie. , taking part in an illegal attempt to enter Palestine without reporting it to the British authorities when he knew the starting point etc. is not counted as the act of a traitor? Surely he is an accessory ~~xxxxxxx~~ and therefore liable to imprisonment?

Many people in this country were shot by our own sentries here during the war for not answering when challenged but I have yet to learn of one single case where such action was questioned the by the friends and relatives of the deceased.

I consider that this Maurice Pearlman has forfeited his right to British citizenship inspite of his war record and I am more than surprised that this article has got past the censorship of the press.

If an Englishman had behaved like this we would treat him as "trading with the enemy" why should naturalised people be exempt from the laws of this country?

Yours faithfully

Scott Bell

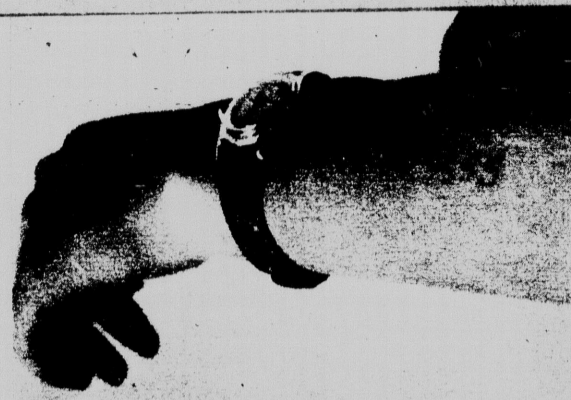
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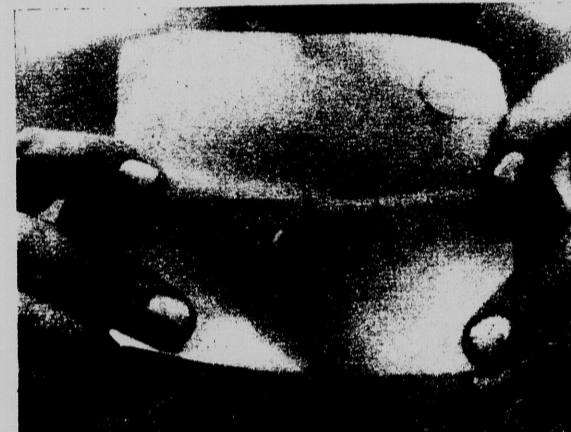
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Decks Were Emptied when the Haganah ship came nearer to land. Only a few passengers and some of crew kept a look-out



Branded by Nazis with concentration camp number, this arm wants to shape a future



Only Document the refugees carried was a ticket giving letter and number of bunk



Overcrowding brought many cases of fainting and illness. The small medical staff worked day and night to succour the sick

THE shadows were lengthening in the little town "somewhere in Europe" when the telephone bell rang in my hotel room. "This is it," said the voice for which I had been waiting a week. It was the voice of my liaison with Haganah, the Palestine Jewish defence organization.

"If you can be at 'X' by eight tomorrow evening, you can be fixed up. Here's the phone number you ring when you get there. They'll know all about you. I hope you can make it. Have a good trip." It was late afternoon next day when I reached the airport at "X." I called the number I had been given. "Come right over," said a voice in broken English. "Here's the address. Give a V tap on the door when you've rung. Be here in a quarter of an hour."

I took a taxi and drove over; rapped the prescribed number of knocks, and the door was opened by a young man, who led me through several corridors until we reached an office. My hand was grasped and shaken by a tall, fair-skinned, blue-eyed Haganah officer, who greeted me with the Hebrew salutation, "Shalom" ("Peace").

"The ship," he came sharply to the point, "is at present lying off 'A,' about two hundred miles away. She should sail some time tomorrow. At nine tonight the first convoy of refugees will leave to join her. All will be on the move by midnight. We're using eighty heavy lorries for transport. Travel with the first convoy. You ought to know that this trip won't be a picnic. Shalom!"

At nine o'clock my guide was waiting for me with a taxi. We drove off to a nearby house, where we found a group of three hundred refugees seated on their rucksacks, waiting for the signal to file into the trucks which were parked with lights off.

In the porch the group leader was standing, directing the beam of a pencil torch on a sheaf of papers checking the names of his travellers. "We're moving off in a few minutes," he told them. "It will be an all-night drive. You may smoke if you wish. None is to leave the truck until ordered. Make as little noise as possible. Mount."

Each driver had been given a route card and told he would be given fresh instructions at the next stop. None knew the final destination. At intervals during the drive, a figure would emerge from the shadows and wave a lamp for the truck to stop. He would whisper a word to the man in charge of the truck and thrust the next part of the

THE JOURNEY OF THE "THEODOR HERZL"

by MAURICE PEARLMAN



Eighty Lorries took refugees to their ship from "Rendezvous X." They travelled through the night, drivers being handed destination route as they went along

route card in the driver's hand. This went on all night until we reached the final rendezvous point.

The harbour was small. Our ship was just being brought alongside. Each of us had two tickets, one with our name and group number, the other with the number of our berth. As each group embarked it was quickly swallowed up by the holds, in which "beds" had been constructed.

By late afternoon, all 2,640 passengers were on board, and half an hour later we pulled away. As the Haganah ship, *Theodor Herzl*, steamed out, everyone on deck stood to attention and sang with vigour the verses of "Hatikvah"—the Jewish song of hope.

First Day

My Haganah host warned me that this trip would be no picnic. It isn't. The *Theodor Herzl* is a forty-year-old, 3,000-ton, single-funnelled, cable-laying steamship that rides the water well. She is 278 feet long and 36 feet wide. Her deep, capacious holds have been fitted with four-tiered wooden boards to serve as beds, which mean a tight squeeze. There is electric light and ventilation. We get three "meals" and a ration of one quart

of fresh water a day. For breakfast we get just over half a pint of hot tea, one and a half large ship's biscuits, cheese and jam; a plate of hot stew for lunch; and another hot plate of stew, or, on occasions, hard tack, in the evening.

Second Day

There is a certain amount of sickness. Among our passengers are seventeen young nursing mothers with babies only a few weeks old. Haganah was loath to take them. But they insisted. They had been waiting too long in Europe, they said, and they wanted their babies to start breathing freedom as soon as possible. There are also a number of pregnant women.

Among the rest of the passengers, nearly all of whom are concentration camp survivors, are some whose bodies have not yet mended. The sick bay is crowded, and our two doctors, seventeen nurses and three pharmacists—all qualified, all themselves refugees—are practically dropping.

Third Day

The older doctor, a fifty-two years old Hungarian Jew, who already has two sons in the detention camp on Cyprus, was relaxed and smiling when I saw him today. "I've got half my beds empty again," he said. "If this weather keeps up, we should get along quite nicely." It is keeping up.

Fourth Day

Two-thirds of our passengers are young boys and girls between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four. Most of the rest are under thirty-five. There are a few older ones and a few infants. *Every single refugee has lost at least one immediate member of the family, a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, a child. Most are the sole survivors of their family.*

Pretty, eighteen-year-old, Georgina has been waiting a year to get to Palestine. The concentration camp number tattooed on her forearm goes ill with her bright-red jumper and her long, smooth fingers. She has nothing left in Europe. Her mother was gassed at Auschwitz. Her father, who escaped and joined the partisans, fell into German hands a month before war ended and he was shot. Rachel Ziporah, with thick chestnut hair,

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Ship's Creche in the lee of main-deck cabins gives little room for mothers



Honduran Flag flew first to hide identity. Later ship changed name from *Guardian* to *Theodor*



Morning Toilet with drops of water saved from a daily drinking ration



Youth At Prayer wears sacred phylacteries on forehead and arm. These contain Bible verses



YOUNG LOVERS ABOARD FIND LITTLE CHANCE TO BE ALONE, BUT THEY ARE HAPPY

dancing eyes and dimpled cheeks, is an attractive twenty-one year old from a Polish village near the prewar Russo-Polish border. She sings like an angel. I know, for I hear her each night.

Her Auschwitz concentration camp number, which she will bear for the rest of her life, is 67774. It was at Auschwitz that her mother and two sisters perished in the crematorium. Her young brother, aged six, died of a heart attack when the Germans came to round up her family. Her father survives. He is in a German D.P. camp waiting his turn to get into Palestine.

Fifth Day

Last night was the Passover. There was no wine to drink the traditional "four goblets," and not all had unleavened bread. But there was perhaps hardly any need for symbols on this voyage.

"Who knows?" a young orthodox Polish Jew observed, as he looked up from his Passover Festival prayer book. "Jews in the year 2947 may celebrate their Passover with an addendum to the story of the Egyptian exodus—the epic of these

remarkable clandestine voyages to Palestine of Europe's surviving Jewish remnants after the twentieth century's second world war."

Sixth Day

There is a bearded fiddler on the after deck playing modern folk songs of Palestine's pioneers. His eyes are bright and full with humour. He seems to have forgotten the persecution tattoo mark on his arm. He is already living in the future. And the crowd of young men and women around him, who are singing themselves hoarse, also seem to have put tragedy behind them.

Seventh Day

As we move eastwards it gets hotter and stuffer in the holds. I asked Marya, a twenty-three years old ex-partisan girl from Lodz, who had been very sick at the beginning of the trip, why she had come at all. She regarded me with eyes of fascinated surprise. "Look," she said to me, with the indulgence one uses with an infant, "we're on this ship and I've felt pretty bad. But even if it lasts

the whole of the voyage, I know it will end after some day and that I can look forward."

Eighth Day

How is the ship run? Mostly the crew are exiles from their own country. They are aided by Jewish volunteers from Palestine. The officer in charge is a young member of Haganah. He combines toughness with a warm humanity. He is twenty-three, and in his hands are the lives of more than 2,500 people. He is an able commander in addition to being an experienced seaman.

Aiding him are three other members of Haganah. One is in charge of ship's stores, food and water. One supervises the engines, boilers and electrical installations. The third acts as second-in-command and general factotum to whom various group leaders turn with their problems.

The passengers are split up into twenty "camps." At the head of each is a leader. Each camp has a number of sections—it varies from three to eight—headed by a section leader. There are forty to fifty people in a section. The section

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IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS AS THEY DREAM OF A NEW LIFE AHEAD IN PALESTINE

leader is responsible for his group's rations and cleanliness. In addition there are two gangs of volunteers, sixty strong, who clean the decks and act as sanitary orderlies. Twenty volunteers work in the galley, another twenty serve as stokers and engine-minders, while ninety work in day and night shifts as guards, fire-watchers and look-out men.

Ninth Day

We have long settled down to an orderly life. The passengers sleep; they sunbathe; they read and chat in one of nearly a dozen languages—Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, French, Dutch, Rumanian. The young folk on deck sing and sing and sing. Where they find this energy and this spirit I have not yet been able to fathom.

It has to be seen to be believed. But hearing it one begins to understand how some of them managed to survive the concentration camp.

Tenth Day

We have just passed Crete. At ten last night a warship winked out the morse message A A—

"Who are you?" We replied with our name, and asked who they were. "Warship," they replied, and went on flashing morse queries about us.

Our captain got tired of this interrogation and shut off our morse lamp. The warship, probably a destroyer, pushed off. But the Haganah boys consider that the authorities have wind of us.

Zero Hour

Zero hour was seven o'clock on Sunday evening, when we were within sixteen miles of the Palestine coast. We had been steaming for thirteen days, and shortly before the decks had throbbled to joyous shouts as we picked out the first twinkling lights of Tel-Aviv. The sea was calm, the dusk air mellow.

"We may yet make it," everyone was thinking, hoping and praying. And then, suddenly, hopes and darkness were shattered by the snapping on of a powerful searchlight some miles away. It swept the waters. A few moments later another searchlight flashed across the darkness on our port side. But we were beyond their range. We steamed on. Tel-Aviv came closer.



Good-natured queue of jesting women lines up with pails for an issue of sea water for washing



Friend In Need pours a minimum of water needed for washing the hands



Ship's Surgeon, Dr. Simon Weiss, had hard task attending many sick with his limited facilities



Guitarist accompanies impromptu choirs in Palestine pioneer songs

A mile nearer, a mile and a half, two miles. "Oh for a burst of speed," lamented our Haganah officer as we creaked out our five knots. We stood on the bridge, eyes fixed on our goal. Another few moments and a powerful searchlight brilliantly illuminated our prow.

In no time at all, a destroyer raced across the water, holding us all the time. The destroyer halted a few hundred yards away. Her powerful light swept our decks and played on our bridge. Suddenly the air crackled with the preparatory splutter of a loudspeaker. "This is a British warship. I want to speak to your leader," cried a very English voice from the destroyer K 600.

"Full speed ahead," ordered the Haganah chief. We eased towards Palestine. Back came the voice from K 600. "You are about to enter territorial waters. I must warn you that if you do so it will be my duty to board you, arrest you and take you to Haifa. I want to speak to your—"

The last word was cut off, for suddenly, with the spontaneity of a forest blaze, the Hatikvah hymn surged over the ship, covering the vessel with a complete canopy of song.

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LIFEBOAT BERTHS PROVIDED MUCH NEEDED FRESH AIR AND SUNSHINE FOR SICK PASSENGERS. THEY REQUIRED A DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE FOR THIS PRIVILEGE

And so this fantastic procession crept forward, the *Theodor Herzl* filled with singing refugees, the British man-o'-war, its company tense, tight-lipped, armed, waiting for the signal to board. While they were waiting, the Marines could read the banners aboard the *Theodor Herzl*, spotlighted by the searchlight. "Did you join the Navy to chase orphans?" and "The Germans destroyed our families and homes; don't you destroy our hopes." At the very top of our forward mast the blue and white flag of Zion, with the Shield of David bordered by two bands of blue, fluttered in the soft breeze.

We could see the lights of the city quite plainly. We had only to reach out our hands, it seemed, to grasp the sand on the Tel Aviv beach.

We were just about three miles from shore. Suddenly K 600 bore down. She raced past our starboard side, sweeping our decks with powerful jets of water. Something like this had been anticipated, and babies, sick and pregnant women had been taken below. But children and aged had remained above, gazing their fill of the land they were destined not to be able to touch for a long time.

They were drenched, and as the destroyer sped by they were taken to the holds. All the rest

gathered up bottles and boxes of tinned food and moved over to the port side, just as K 600 turned, waited for us to pass, and then repeated the performance on our port decks.

The destroyer continued its sweep, the Marines on deck ready to jump and board us. But the refugees had not moved. And so the destroyer turned and again sped along our starboard side. But this time the water attack was accompanied by the sudden lobbing of gas bombs in our midst.

Above the "swish" of the hoses came "phtz" of the gas mortars which sent out acrid, blinding, choking smoke it seemed impossible to fight. I had moistened my handkerchief, and, applying it now to my eyes, found I could hold out. When I could see again I beheld a deck crowded with young men and women, busily casting gas bombs overboard as they hit the deck, and then returning to the task of flinging bottles and tin boxes at the decks of the destroyer.

Near me stood young boys and girls, spotlighted in the searchlight their bodies and their arms poised with a bottle calmly waiting for the range to shorten before casting their missiles.

A cry on the after deck was cut short by a thud. Aaron, a lad of twenty-three, who had been

through a concentration camp, was hit by a gas bomb square on his skull. He fell back. His brains spilled over the cross rails of the ship.

Up in the wheel house and on the bridge, the gas bombs dropped in clusters. The man at the wheel had a gas mask, and he kept us on our course. Back came the destroyer, this time on our port side again, bumping our stern, squirting water, lobbing gas bombs.

Twice more K 600 sped past our decks. By now our eyes burned and streamed, our lungs were choked by the filthy fumes, our clothes hung upon us heavy with water.

From below came the cries of the babies—gas bombs had been tossed into an opening on the ship's side which gave on to the mess room in which they were sheltering. There were still many people on every part of the main and boat decks who stood ready for further action.

Then came the bump. Under cover of a powerful hail of gas bombs and a concentrated stream of water, K 600 drew near the after deck on our port side and a detachment of Marines jumped aboard. They wore white commando-style helmets, blue life jackets. Each carried a sten gun and wore a revolver; a baton was slung over the shoulder.

FO 311 1408

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May 24, 1947—ILLUSTRATED

Anti-tear-Gas Goggles were worn by some refugees as protection against injury when ship was seized. Liliith Praager wears hers for sun-glasses as she basks in Mediterranean sun



Wounded Girl of nineteen, survivor of infamous Belsen, lies in an improvised sick-bay. Bullets from boarding-party's guns pierced legs. Twenty-seven were wounded; three died

Some of the Marines moved across to the port side and began firing with their stens. We still thought this was all part of the nerve-scaring game, when one of the refugees fell. It was Peter Weiss, a twenty-four years old Jew from Budapest, who had already found distinction as an agricultural engineer. Others were falling with bullet wounds in the leg, the arm, the shoulder, the belly. We knew only that there was firing and that we were suffering casualties.

By 11 p.m. the boarding party was in possession of the ship and a tow hawser was tied to our forward capstan. Aaron, our first casualty, was taken to the sick bay, his leg marked with his name and particulars. Then the wounded. Menahem Samet came first, ashen, pallid, with a bullet wound in the belly from which he was to die three days later in a Haifa hospital. His wife stood nearby, bitter but dry-eyed, gazing at her suffering husband. She would not go away.

The M.O. from the destroyer came aboard. He inspected the wounded and then went to the bridge and shouted by megaphone across to K 600: "Can you please send across stretchers and stand by to take off several with grave gunshot wounds—some are likely to die."

Shortly afterwards, the destroyer drew alongside. But meanwhile a high wind had risen and the sea heaved angrily. The removal of our wounded—fifteen were taken off then and twelve more at Haifa two days later—was a most precarious operation. After a masterpiece of naval dexterity on the part of the skipper of K 600, the wounded were landed and the destroyer sped off to Haifa.

Our journey to Haifa took twenty-seven hours. The sea was rough. There was no ordered routine on board. But at last we were deposited in the bay of Haifa and after much trouble with snapping hawsers were tugged into the dock. As the *Theodor Herzl* neared the quay, the passengers on deck stood to attention and sang the *Hatikvah*. We were moored alongside a dock ringed with barbed wire and troops of the Sixth Airborne Division.

Then came the transfer of refugees to one of the "Empire" vessels that was to take them to Cyprus, where I revealed myself a few days later as a British correspondent. My underground journey was now over. But it was not easy to say "Shalom" to my fellow passengers of the Haganah ship whom I left behind their barbed-wire fence on the island. They are still waiting and waiting for the end of the long voyage home.

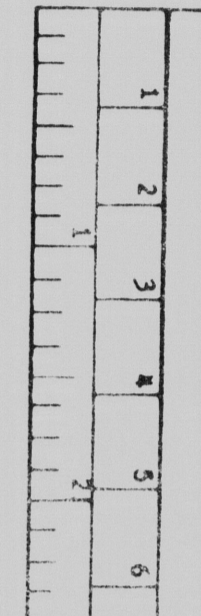


Defiant In Glare of destroyer's searchlight, group of young partisans who fought Nazis, chant hymns of hope as they wait for naval boarding-party to place them under arrest



Two Dead Refugees draped in Jewish flag are about to be carried by comrades to quay-side at Haifa where refugees stayed few hours before being sent on to camp in Cyprus

British Soldiers of the Sixth Airborne Division try to console two boys whose mothers were wounded in fight



FO

371

21898

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Proud Ancestry is behind Baby and her foal Candy born in the Children's Zoo last March and now in the care of hostess Peggy Mann. These ponies are descendants of the famous Hanover Creams which were used in the Victorian days to pull royal carriages



Twopence a Time is the cost to ride behind Tom the llama. He is called "Old Tom," but he can't be more than ten. On a fine Bank Holiday he and his llama friend, June, take more than 300 children for rides and can put up with any amount of petting

It's Zoo Time Again

Number one attraction for this Whi un's holidaymakers in London will be Regent's Park where the animals are nearl back to prewar in numbers and in variety

PHOTOGRAPHER BY JAMES JARCHÉ



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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(18555) Wt. 48698-114 200m 2/47 G.S.St. Gp. 620

Registry
No. E4697/48/31
J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

To

W.A.C.
Mr. MATHIESON (S.O.)

from
J.E.
Mr. CABLE

OUT FILE

30 Foreign Office

31 May 1947

47

Dear Mathieson,

We have received a letter drawing our attention to an article in the magazine "Illustrated" of the 24th May by a Mr. Maurice Pearlman, in which he describes his journey to Palestine on the illegal immigrant ship "THEODOR HEARN".

It is obvious from this article that Mr. Pearlman knew in advance that an attempt was to be made to break the laws of Palestine. Instead of warning the authorities, he took part in the attempt and sailed with the ship.

Our correspondent suggests that he is, therefore, an accessory before the fact to the offence of illicit immigration into Palestine and enquires why he has not been prosecuted.

Can you tell me whether there

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61808

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48 There are any legal grounds for
prosecuting British subjects in
such cases and, ~~whether~~, in fact,
if so, whether you are
considering any action against
Mr. Pearlman?

J. E. Cable 29/5

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd) J. E. Cable.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61808

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

31st May, 1947.

(E. 4497/48/31).

RESTRICTED

Dear Mathieson,

We have received a letter drawing our attention to an article in the magazine "Illustrated" of the 24th May by a Mr. Maurice Pearlman, in which he describes his journey to Palestine on the illegal immigrant ship "Theodor Herzl".

It is obvious from this article that Mr. Pearlman knew in advance that an attempt was to be made to break the laws of Palestine. Instead of warning the authorities, he took part in the attempt and sailed with the ship.

Our correspondent suggests that he is, therefore, an accessory before the fact to the offence of illicit immigration into Palestine and enquires why he has not been prosecuted.

Can you tell me whether there are any legal grounds for prosecuting British subjects in such cases and, if so, whether you are considering any action against Mr. Pearlman?

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) (J. E. Cable).

A.C. Mathieson, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

49

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Reference: **EO** 371 / 61808

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133	Palestine EASTERN	E4522 / G 28 MAY 1947
E4522/48/G F.O. Min Mr Keith Dated 22 May Received 28 May	Illegal immigration 50 Comments on question of returning Jewish illegal immigrants to countries of embarkation.	
Last Paper. E4485	(Minutes.)	
References.	Mr Fitzmaurice H.S. Bevin I gather letter is a May 29 reply on this & therefore I will reserve comment. The point will be how far we can make out a legal case for arguing that countries should readmit their persons. He usually had conferences with the H.O. about our own practice & I should be glad if his views were attached.	
(Print.)		
(How disposed of.) Tel) Rome 1099 27 May 8) 11P ✓ 26 May	G.H. Fitzmaurice	
(Action completed.) 25/15/6	(Index.) W.P.	Mr Fitzmaurice & Mr Evans have now seen the copies with H.O. with other pp. minutes decided to await the Atty. - My. of Transport paper about ways & means
Next Paper. E4570 (E4688)	30047 F.O.P.	

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61808

means of repentance before taking
a decision

JB June 17

51

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61808

Minutes

567

Tel. to Rome

E 4522 / 10
28 MAY

The Official Committee on Illegal Immigration to Palestine was mainly concerned this morning with the question of returning Jewish illegal immigrants to countries of embarkation. In the present circumstances this ~~beds down~~ to Italy. The main flow of the traffic is likely to be from there, and, as regards France, we raised this question with the French authorities at the discussion on May 12th and got little change out of them. The French claimed that they were merely a country of transit in the case of these illegal immigrants and that it would be impossible for them in any case politically to agree to their return to France. They did tentatively suggest, that any Jews arriving illegally in Palestine who were proved to have entered France on the official French transit quota, could justifiably be returned to that country. We still await the agreed minutes of our meeting with the French but from what I hear from Paris the above mentioned concession has not been accepted in black and white by the French.

The Chairman of the Official Committee, Sir Thomas Lloyd, has, from the beginning, emphasized the importance of the principle of returning illegal immigrants to the port of embarkation, and he expressed the view that we should now make a definite démarche to the Italian Government on these lines so that we might have their reply by the time the Ministerial Committee on illegal immigration meets again on the return of the Ministers from the Party Conference. He and the Committee requested the Foreign Office to take action in this sense, and I accordingly submit a draft telegram to Rome which I have endeavoured to make as palatable as possible for Sir Noel Charles. I made it clear to the Committee that we have no definite legal basis for the action we propose to take and that ~~the~~ Ministers will no doubt take the legal position into account when they consider the matter ~~however~~

Mr Fitzmaurice
Western Dept.) list

J.G.S. Beith
(J.G.S. Beith)

22nd May, 1947.

/ agree /

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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52

Minutes.

I agree with the draft telegram,
 but wd like to note that if France
 protests that she is only a transit
 country, Italy has just as much cause
 to say so & that if we get to
 change out of Italy it will be
 hard on her & impolitic from the
 general point of view to press her
 more than we press the French.
 Please see pencilled suggestion on
 para 5.

J. B. Brown.
 27/5.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61808

Registry
No.

TOP SECRET
SECRET
Confidential
RESTRICTED
OPEN X

F. O.,

May 1947

Despatched M.

J. G. S. B.
Draft.
H. M. Ambassador,
Rome.

IMPORTANT

Telegram.

No. 1099
(Date) May 27th

Repeat to :-

Paris no. 1180 Summary
Washington
no. 546 Summary

Please see
Western Dept.
JB May 23

Ex. Clotix
Codex
Cypher.

Distribution :-

Cabinet

Para 5 seen by
Private Sec -

Copies to :-

I. I. P.

Ref
23/5

My telegrams Nos. 993 and 1063 [of May 10th and May 21st: Jewish illegal immigration]

As distinct from the special case of the "Anal", we have been considering the desirability of returning Jewish illegal immigrants to Italy and other countries where they embark. It is agreed that we could only do this ^{in cases where we} ~~if we can~~ succeed in securing clear evidence of the place of embarkation, either by shadowing the illegal immigrant ship to the point of loading or by more intensive interrogation of the illegal immigrants on arrival.

2. The matter was raised with the French authorities in recent talks and the French reaction was unfavourable, although their representative suggested that any illegal immigrants who could be shown to have entered France on the legal transit quota should be returned to France. I recognise that the return of such people would be equally embarrassing to the Italian Government (and other Governments concerned) and that they ^{would might} will claim, like the French, that the majority of them had come from Central Europe and had used Italy and other countries merely as countries of transit on their way to a port of embarkation. Nevertheless, Italy is at present the country where ^{there is} the greatest illegal immigrant activity ~~exists~~ and

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(19556) Wt. 43697-140 100m 1947 G.S.S. Gp 620

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FO 371 / 61808

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54

~~exists~~ and also the Mediterranean country least able to resist our pressure. It is therefore ^{most important!} ~~vital~~ to do everything possible to get the principle of "refoulement" established with Italy, with a view to extending it later to other countries.

3. You will already have told the Italian Government, with reference to the "President Warfield", that, if she sailed with illegal immigrants, we should have to insist that the Italian Government take the immigrants back (see paragraph 3 of my telegram No. 993) and I imagine that you may have made further play with this point in general representations.

I should be grateful for your early observations as to whether we should now press the Italian Government for a specific assurance that they will take back illegal immigrants shown to have embarked in Italy or whether it would be better tactics to take Italian acquiescence for granted, seeing that they do not appear to have reacted strongly to your statements on this point.

4. Official Committee have expressed their appreciation of your vigilance and activity in this matter during recent weeks and I am ^{very} grateful for what you have done. I recognise that we have pressed the Italian Government hard and you may make it clear that H.M.G. appreciate the efforts they have made to control the traffic and understand the difficulties arising from the influx of refugees into Italy. You can assure them that the British Zone of Austria has taken the strictest measures to control the illegal passage of refugees across that frontier and that/

*H. Care of the ANA
may, of course, provide
an opportunity of
help to prepare
the way for securing
Italian acquiescence.*

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61808

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*Including the
authorities in
the French zone
of Austria*

that we are willing to back the Italian Government up strongly in any representations they make to neighbouring countries or to the United States Government in regard to the illegal movement of refugees or in any reasonable action they may take affecting organisations like A.J.D.C.

b. You will have seen reports from F.O.L.I. to the effect that owners of "President Warfield" have instructed the Master to sell her. Fact that ship is temporarily immobilised is most satisfactory and we await a further report from you: no doubt you and Italian Ministry of Marine will bear in mind the possibility that proposed change of ownership may be a blind. C. in C. will not of course be able to maintain guard indefinitely and we must count on Italian authorities to maintain their vigilance.

E

MM 27/5

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56

Confidential.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP. CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME.

No. 1099.

D. 7.35 p.m. 27th May 1947.

27th May 1947.

Repeated to: Paris, No.1180 Saving;
Washington, No.576 Saving.

W:W:W:W:W

IMPORTANT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegrams Nos.993 and 1063 [of May 10th and May 21st: Jewish illegal immigration].

As distinct from the special case of the "Anal", we have been considering the desirability of returning Jewish illegal immigrants to Italy and other countries where they embark. It is agreed that we could only do this in cases where we succeed in securing clear evidence of the place of embarkation, either by shadowing the illegal immigrant ship to the point of loading or by more intensive interrogation of the illegal immigrants on arrival.

2. The matter was raised with the French authorities in recent talks and the French reaction was unfavourable, although their representative suggested that any illegal immigrants who could be shown to have entered France on the legal transit quota should be returned to France. I recognise that the return of such people would be equally embarrassing to the Italian Government (and other Governments concerned) and that they might claim, like the French, that the majority of them had come from Central Europe and had used Italy and other countries merely as countries of transit on their way to a port of embarkation. Nevertheless, Italy is at present the country where there is the greatest illegal immigrant activity and also the Mediterranean country least able to resist our pressure. It is therefore most important to do everything possible to get the principle of "refoulement" established with Italy, with a view to extending it later to other countries.

3. You will already have told the Italian Government, with reference to the "President Warfield",

that

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61808**

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that, if she sailed with illegal immigrants, we should have to insist that the Italian Government take the immigrants back (see paragraph 3 of my telegram No.993) and I imagine that you may have made further play with this point in general representations. I should be grateful for your early observations as to whether we should now press the Italian Government for a specific assurance that they will take back illegal immigrants shown to have embarked in Italy or whether it would be better tactics to take Italian acquiescence for granted, seeing that they do not appear to have reacted strongly to your statements on this point.

4. Case of the "Anal" may, of course, help to prepare the way for securing Italian acquiescence.

5. Official Committee have expressed their appreciation of your vigilance and activity in this matter during recent weeks and I am very grateful for what you have done. I recognise that we have pressed the Italian Government hard and you may make it clear that His Majesty's Government appreciate the efforts they have made to control the traffic and understand the difficulties arising from the influx of refugees into Italy. You can assure them that the British Zone of Austria has taken the strictest measures to control the illegal passage of refugees across that frontier and that we are willing to back the Italian Government up strongly in any representations they make to neighbouring countries including the authorities in the French Zone of Austria or to the United States Government in regard to the illegal movement of refugees or in any reasonable action they may take affecting organisations like A.J.D.C.

6. You will have seen reports from F.O.L.I. to the effect that owners of "President Warfield" have instructed the Master to sell her. Fact that ship is temporarily immobilised is most satisfactory and we await a further report from you: no doubt you and Italian Ministry of Marine will bear in mind the possibility that proposed change of ownership may be a blind. Commander-in-Chief will not of course be able to maintain guard indefinitely and we must count on Italian authorities to maintain their vigilance.

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E 4536

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1947

PALESTINE

29 MAY

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 4536/48/31

Clarence

Washington

9/24/47

20 May 1947

29

Letter by BEN HECHT.

Refer to tel 4927 & 4928 of May 17 (E 4221/48/71)
re letter by Ben Hecht to terrorists.Enclose copies of actual advertisement
together with notes from Labour Zionist
Youth.

Last Paper.

4534

References.

(Minutes.)

Copy of
notes } usual namesD. S. Smith
May 29

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ diploma 80.
Robinson
Serial 12(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

J. C. [Signature]

[Signature]

Next Paper.

4532

Once again the Embassy in Washington seem to have put in a fairly weak protest, by comparison with the very strong instructions contained in our telegram No. 4928 (E 4221). The instructions in that telegram were to impress upon the State Department that it was intolerable that such advertisements should appear in the press of a country friendly to Great Britain and to say that it was expected that now at last the administration would be able to take effective measures to put stop to them. But the note, after saying that the Ambassador had been instructed to request that effective action should be taken to put a stop to these advertisements, ends up tamely by urging strongly that a statement should be issued by the U.S. Govt. condemning in the strongest terms the present advertisements and the activities of which complaint has already been made. No statement by the U.S. Government will stop the advertisements. What we want is effective action and it seems unfortunate that the instructions were not more precisely carried out, particularly as we have here such a cast iron case, and we have reason to believe that at last the administration are wavering.

Would it be possible to send a personal telegram to the Ambassador expressing regret that he did not take a stronger line?

Incidentally our tel. No. 4928 was inadvertently

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References:

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sent En Clair and not in Cypher. This should be all to the good, for the administration will at least know the terms of the Embassy instructions.

R. Garran
2nd June, 1947.

N. American Dept for obs.

M. M. [unclear]
3/6

I agree that this seems lamentably weak. As Mr. Garran says, this is a cast iron case and possibly the only one we shall have. I think we ought to make the most of it, and it is essential to do so while the advertisement is still news - a statement in a couple of weeks' time will carry very little weight.

Could we not ask Lord Inverchapel to press for a reply, and failing satisfaction, might we not suggest that he should consider the desirability of an Embassy statement, pointing out amongst other things the harm that such episodes do to Anglo-American relations?

F. B. A. Rundall
F. B. A. RUNDALL
3rd June, 1947.

Debatable as they are I confess to doubts whether these extravagances by a rabid Zionist do much harm to us or to A-A. relations. President Truman has now been moved to make his appeal, and I think that we can leave it at that for the present.

M. B.
9/6

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E 4536
29 MAY

60

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

20th May 1947

SECRET

Ref: G124/ /47

Dear Department,

Please refer to Foreign Office telegrams Nos. 4927 and 4928 of the 17th May about Ben Hecht's letter to the terrorists in Palestine.

We enclose a copy of this advertisement which appeared in the New York Post on the 14th May and in "P.M." on the 17th May. It is about the worst we have seen. One interesting point is that the attack on rich American Jews implies that the funds may not be pouring in to the American League for a Free Palestine as quickly as they would wish.

As you will have seen from our telegram No. 2932 of the 17th May, the State Department appear at last to be thinking of taking some action. In accordance with Foreign Office instructions, the Ambassador has sent to Mr. Marshall a strong protest, a copy of which is enclosed.

You may also like to see another advertisement, of which a copy is enclosed, inserted in the newspaper "P.M." on the 19th May by the Labour Zionist Youth. Though this is not much better from our point of view, it does attack the even more extreme groups - probably because they are diverting funds which might otherwise be used in a united effort by Haganah.

We are sending a copy of this letter and enclosures to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61808

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Letter to the Terrorists of Palestine

My Brave Friends,

You may not believe what I write you, for there is a lot of fertilizer in the air at the moment.

But, on my word as an old reporter, what I write is true. The Jews of America are for you. You are their champions. You are the grin they wear. You are the feather in their hats.

In the past fifteen hundred years every nation of Europe has taken a crack at the Jews.

This time the British are at bat. You are the first answer that makes sense—to the New World. Every time you blow up a British arsenal, or wreck a British jail, or send a British railroad train sky high, or rob a British bank or let go with your guns and bombs at the British betrayers and invaders of your homeland, the Jews of America make a little holiday in their hearts.

Not all the Jews, of course. The only time the Jews present a United Front is when they lie piled by the millions in the massacre-pits.

I shenck you this front. I like yours better. Historically, the corpses of the Jews are very impressive as to numbers. But they are not a monument to Jewish valor.

They are a monument only to the brutality of the Europeans who piled them up. The Jews of America are for you because the corpse of an Irgun soldier is a unique and very high class type of Jewish corpse.

The corpse of Dov Gruner hanging from a British gallows is not a monument to the British brutality that strangled him.

It is a monument to the Hebrew valor that fights for a homeland of its own—and for the dignity of all Jews such as myself who have a homeland elsewhere.

Jewish Tories Too!

Brave friends, I can imagine you wondering, "If the Jews of America are behind us why don't they help us with their support and money?"

This is a legitimate curiosity. I'll try to answer it. It so happens that a certain small percentage of the Jews of America are not behind you—yet. (Remember you haven't won yet.)

Unfortunately, this small percentage includes practically all the rich Jews of America, all the important ones, all the influential ones, all the heads of nearly all the Jewish organizations whom the American newspapers call—"the Jewish leaders."

They're all against. Every time you throw a punch at the British betrayers of your homeland, nearly all these Jews have a collective conniption fit.

They ululate and deplore. They rush in waving white handkerchiefs and alibis. They didn't do it—not they! Respectable people don't fight. They gabble.

This exhibition of weak stomachs, weak minds and weak spines would be the blackest mark ever pasted on the word Jew—were it only a Jewish exhibition.

Luckily for the Jews, history lightens their shameful antics. History tells us (a little sadly) that respectability and wealth never line up with a revolution—or a fighting minority. The American Revolutionary Army under George Washington went a long time without shoes, guns, or food.

The respectable and wealthy American Colonists preferred British admiration to liberty and freedom.

They thought it was bad taste to fight for such things—against the British, of all people. And they wouldn't kick in a dime.

In fact they proved their respectability by playing informer to the British. You can see how little respectability has changed since 1776.

There's another side to Jewish respectability. I'll tell you a story that illustrates it. I went to see the Max Schmeling—Max Baer world championship fight with an important Jewish Hollywood tycoon. He sat beside me for nine rounds without raising his head to look at the ring. He couldn't bear the spectacle of a Jew being beaten by a German.

But in the tenth round my Hollywood friend looked at the ring. He not only looked. He jumped and cheered. He cheered so long and so loud that he was hoarse for three days.

Schmeling was on his back and the referee was counting him out. He didn't look good.

Maxie Baer, with the Star of David stitched on his trunks, was upright and grinning in a neutral corner. He looked fine.

Brave friends, I can promise you that all the respectable and wealthy Jewish personalities will be on their feet cheering for you—in Round Ten.

They'll all be for you when you don't need them. That's the history of respectable people and Nervous Nellies, whatever their nationality.

Right now all the respectability of the Jews is handsomely engaged in cooing before the Court of Nations.

Let me tell you what the Jews of America, such as myself, think of these capers. It may give you a chuckle between jail deliveries.

We are aware that the British pulled the U.N. trick because they were frightened of you. They were afraid that your gallant and desperate fight for your homeland would gather to you the sympathy of the world.

It looked as if the cheering sections were for you. So they took the ball out of play by handing it to the referee—who was a personal friend.

The British figured that the sound of Jewish gabble before a world court would drown out the sound of Hebrew guns in Palestine.

Let me assure you, my brave friends, that it hasn't and it won't. True enough, Jewish respectability is making a bit of noise at the moment. Our "Jewish leaders" are pleading for a Jewish sanctuary in fine and measured stropes.

They are not nearly as hot-headed about it as were the bird lovers of America who a few years ago pleaded for a sanctuary for the vanishing penguin. But, barring a little steam, they are much alike.

They want a sanctuary where the Jews of Europe can all stand on a rock and eat philanthropy-fish till the Messiah arrives.

These Jewish Penguin Patriots are very proud for the moment because Somebody is listening to them.

Not the British or the Arabs of course, who stand ready to shoot down Jews whether they turn into Penguins or Dodo birds.

And, thank God,—not you! The fact that you are keeping to your gallant fight against the British invaders is the sanest and healthiest thing that has happened to the battered Hebrew cause in 1500 years.

Not the gabble of respectable Jews, but your fight is the history of tomorrow. It will be your fight that will win for the Jews of the World what they have never had—the respect of their enemies—and a land more honorable than a bird sanctuary.

Brave friends, we are working to help you.

We Are Raising Funds For You

We are ringing doorbells and peddling your cause and passing the hat and trying to lift the heads of our Jewish respectables to have a look at the ring—before Round Ten.

It's tough going—even on the fringe of a fight for freedom. So forgive us if our take is a little meager for the time.

The rich Jews are pouring millions into the business of feeding the survivors of the German massacre.

Jewish wealth and respectability are fearlessly rushing sandwiches to them. But, for a change, the Jews of America hear more than Jewish groans to solace. We hear Hebrew courage.

We hear a battle cry that rises above the pathetic gabble in Flushing Meadows. We hear brave men fighting on despite torture, calumny, low supplies and overwhelming odds!

We hear you. We are out to raise millions for you. And the money is coming in—not from Jews alone but from all Americans.

Because America is not a Fact Finding Commission and a State Department. America is a dream of freedom in the hearts of its millions and a cheer for all brave men who fight its never ending battle. Hang on, brave friends, our money is on its way.

Yours as ever,

Bey Hecht

BEN HECHT, Co-Chairman
American League for a Free Palestine

Only the heroic battle in Palestine will decide the issue. Only your money can swing the tide of battle. Be you Christian or Jew, be you a veteran of the last war, the parent of a boy or girl, a rich man or laborer—you have a stake in Palestine. The fighting Resistance is holding the front line for all. \$500 will buy a surgical kit. \$25 will buy clothing for a fighter or someone in his family. Your money is nourishment, plasma, and survival. Your money is the only bridge to victory. Send in your check today for the liberation and dignity of the Hebrew Nation.

Reprints and Advertising Mats are Available on Request.



A CHANCE TO WIN

PALESTINE RESISTANCE FUND
530 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

PM-2

Enclosed is my contribution in the sum of \$..... to speed medical relief and humanitarian aid to the Palestine Resistance Fighters.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

ZONE

STATE

Please make checks payable to FRANCES GUNTHER, Treas.

PALESTINE RESISTANCE FUND

530 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Stella Adler
Konrad Bercovici
Louis Bromfield
Russel Gordon Carter
Lester Cohen
Alan Corelli

Mordchai Danzis
Paul Eldridge
Frances Gunther
Ben Hecht
Nathan George Horwitt
Prof. Constantine Panunzio

Andrew L. Somers, M.C.
Arthur Szyk
Alex Wilf
Isaac Zaar

(And Others)

The cost of this advertisement was contributed as a public service by Mr. Walter Kirshner of Indio, California.

61

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Reference: FO 371 / 61808

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62
Ref: 0124/ 192

AIDE MEMOIRE

With reference to this Embassy's Aide Memoire of the 21st April concerning aid given in the United States to illegal Jewish immigration, Lord Inverchapel wishes to draw the attention of the Secretary of State to the attached advertisement which appeared in the New York Post on the 14th May and in "P.M." on the 17th May. This advertisement was inserted in these newspapers by the Palestine Resistance Fund, which is organized by the American League for a Free Palestine. It consists of a letter signed by Ben Hecht and an appeal for funds for medicine and other aid for the terrorists.

2. The following passage appears in the letter:
"Every time you blow up a British arsenal, or wreck a British jail, or send a British railroad train sky high, or rob a British bank or let go with your guns and bombs at the British betrayers and invaders of your homeland, the Jews of America make a little holiday in their hearts." It is quite clear that this passage can only be regarded as a direct incitement to the murder of British officials and troops in Palestine. H.M.G. in the United Kingdom regard it as intolerable that such a statement should appear in the press of a friendly country. The United Nations have just passed a resolution to the effect that all governments and

/peoples

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Reference:

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peoples should refrain from any action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine and it is evident that the present advertisement falls within the scope of this resolution.

3. Lord Inverchapel has been instructed by H.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to request that the United States Government should take effective action to put a stop to these advertisements, failing which even more scurrilous and provocative appeals are likely to appear. Lord Inverchapel was informed early in January by Mr. Byrnes that there are no legal means open to the United States Government to prevent the appearance of such advertisements. He would, however, very strongly urge that, in view of the United Nations resolution mentioned above, and inasmuch as the United Nations are now formally seized of the Palestine question, a statement should be issued by the United States Government condemning in the strongest terms the present advertisement and the activities of which complaint has already been made.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
19th May 1947.

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Action By Haganah:

THIS IS RESISTANCE

These are
the ships:

Since November 1945 these Haganah ships were caught by the British. Others have arrived which they do not know about.

Name of Ship	No. of Refugees
Berl Katznelson	211
Hannah Szenesh	252
Enzo Sereni	908
Wingate	243
Tel Hai	746
Dov Nos	1014
Eliahu Golomb	
Max Nordau	1663
Haviva Reik	462
Josiah Wedgewood	1290
Birya	1060
Haganah	2678
Hahayal Haivri	510
Yagour	754
Hemietta Szold	530
The Twenty-Three	790
Katviel Yoffe	601
Four Freedoms	1024
Palmach	625
Braha Fuld	819
Latrun	1252
Jewish Resistance	3824
Rafah	790
Lanogev	652
Horut	796
Arlasoroff	1356
Theodore Herzl	2700
Moledet	1570
Shabbatai Lozinsky	800
	(or more)
Hatikvah	1500

Despite the fanfare only one non-Haganah ship has reached Palestine — the well-publicized "Ben Hecht."

There are new play-boys in America, They play with Jewish blood. The thrills of Hollywood are no longer sharp enough, They need lustier excitement, bolder showmanship. The play-boys are lucky; they have a subject worthy of their wits—the Jewish struggle.

What other theme holds so much agony and heroism? Where else could they get so grand a stage and so glorious a cast? The klieg-lights of the world on it. The play-boys are having a wonderful time! They egg on the mad children of the Irgun: the distant whiff of bombs is headier than a cocktail.

They play with the truth: what is smarter than leading the American public by the nose.

They play with the fate of Palestine, The Haganah acts: And neither the stink-bombs of lies and the wise-cracks in America, Nor the bombs of terrorists in Palestine Are Jewish resistance. Jewish resistance is graver and more dangerous Than a shot from ambush in Jerusalem or a clever "ad" in New York. Jewish resistance is the ships that approach the shores of Palestine in the teeth of British cruisers;

Jewish resistance is the watch-tower on a Galilean hill; Jewish resistance is the truck-load of pioneers driving at dawn into the Negev despite British soldiers. Jewish resistance is the trained, disciplined strength of Palestinian youth which wages the national struggle.

The Haganah is Jewish resistance. The battle in Palestine is not being fought by irresponsible bands, Nor are the dwellers in the DP camps being led on the secret path to Palestine by publicity-hounds.

It is the workers of the Haganah who guide the Jewish survivors across the steep mountain-passes to the Mediterranean. It is the sea-men of the Haganah who steer the "illegal" ships. It is the swimmers of the Haganah who bear the refugees ashore. It is the soldiers of the Haganah who defend the crags of Galilee and the plains of the Emek.

The smart alecks do not do it; the Irgunists do not do it; the high-pressure hucksters, who try to cash in on the credit, do not do it.

We warn American Jewry against the play-boys: the cuckoos of the Jewish national struggle, who steal what is not theirs, and then befoul it.

We warn against the terrorist gangs: their shots in the dark wound the heart of Palestine and the hopes of the future more than they injure the British.

The Jewish case is before the world. The sound that reaches the United Nations is the cry of wrath from the tide-tossed ships, The clang of the hammer and the plow in the 23 new settlements in the desert, The rifle-volley of the serried ranks of disciplined Jewish soldiers, The voice of the workers and builders of Palestine The voice of the Haganah.

News Flash!

As this goes to press the newspapers carry stories of two more Haganah ships approaching Palestine, names and numbers not yet known. And more are on the way.

A Statement

"In the course of the inquiry there was made available to us . . . an opportunity to learn at first hand the operational methods employed in the transfer of Jews to Palestine . . . It was not the American League for a Free Palestine which was responsible for bringing over to Palestine Jews rescued from Europe. This work has been and is being done by the Palestine Resistance Movement known as the Haganah . . ."

Bartley C. Crum

Member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry (1946)

This ad was placed and paid for by the lunch and spending money of 5,500 members of Habonim, Labor Zionist Youth, between the ages of 14 and 25. Hundreds of members of Habonim are now in Palestine engaged in pioneering and constructive work. Habonim in America is an educational organization bringing the story of work and resistance in Palestine to the people of America. If you want to help tell the TRUE story of Jewish resistance send your contribution to:

HABONIM,
Labor Zionist Youth
45 EAST 17 STREET
New York 3, N. Y.
AL 4-8257

Reference: FO 371/51808

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1947

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E 4552

65

PALESTINE

29 MAY

Registry Number } E4552/48/31.

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Chamney
Buckhurst.
74/23/47.
20 May 1947.
29 - -

Illegal Immigration Roumania
Refer Buckhurst at 497 (E4050/48/21)
State reserves sudden reversal of policy
by Zionist extremists, i.e. press notices
condemning clandestine immigration to
Polistia.

Last Paper.

4586.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

4/ diploma, C.O.
Leland, N.I.S.
covered, Cab. Off.
June 6 May.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Next Paper.

4553

(Minutes.)

~~Mr Rennie~~
Mr Rennie
Inf. Policy Dept. to see

Copy to -
NY5

Curtis Evershed
Cable Station

J.S. Rennie
May 29

Received in Inf. Policy Dept on 12th June

R Attendance

[Handwritten signature]
24/6

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Reference:

FO

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61808

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SECRET
74/23/47

E 4552
29 MAY

Office of the British
Political Representative,
Bucharest.

20th May, 1947.

Dear Department,

Since sending telegram No. 497 of 14th May concerning illegal Jewish emigration from Roumania, several Jewish organisations have published notices in the press condemning clandestine immigration to Palestine.

This sudden reversal of policy by the Zionist extremists and the natural resentment created among the thousands of dupes who had been persuaded to sell their belongings, partly to pay considerable sums of money to the organisers of this traffic, has caused a very strained situation in local Jewish circles.

The latest development is the "discovery" that this traffic was organised by the reactionary parties in their effort to rid Roumania of Jews!! This ridiculous line taken in the local press lays bare the guilt of the authors for what has been a real disaster to thousands of gullible Jews.

Meantime Jews are returning from Hungary and the A.J.D.C. is financing the journey home of several thousand destitute Jews who were waiting at Satu-Mare, Oradea, Arad and Timișoara for onward transport to displaced persons camps in western Europe.

We are copying this letter to the British Middle East Office, Cairo, and to the Secretariat, Jerusalem.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61808

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1947

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E 4553

67

29 MAY

ESTINE

Registry Number } E4553/48/31

FROM

Chancery

No.

Bucharest

Dated

74/22/47

Received in Registry }

20 May 1947

29 - -

Illegal Emigration Romania.
 Report Bucharest at 1243 (E3612/48/31) re
 efforts to replace Jacobson by Klaman at head
 of A.S.O. in Romania. Is now informed
 that Schwartz, the European Manager
 has refused to agree to the change.

Last Paper.

4172

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9. Chancery
 W. Ford no. 1133
 (Secret)
 ✓ Junt 6

(Action completed.)

✓ 20/6
 20/6

(Index)

✓ 20/6
 20/6

Next Paper.

4174

(Minutes.)

Copy Chancery, Western.

I expect he has been
 threatened by the Extremists.

Refugee Dept.
 Southern Dept.

W.D.H.
 11/6

J.S. Sims
 May 29

✓ 30/5

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Reference:

FO

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SECRET

74/22/47

E 4553
29 MAY

Office of the British
Political Representative,
Bucharest.

20th May, 1947.

Dear Department,

With reference to our telegram No. 443 of 29th April concerning efforts to replace Jacobson by Klarman at the head of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Roumania, I am now informed on reliable authority that Schwartz, the European Manager of the A.J.D.C., has refused to agree to the change.

Jacobson himself confirmed the substance of this report in an interview with Kendall. He said that his position was extremely difficult and he was leaving Roumania shortly. Kendall got the impression that Jacobson was very nervous and strained. He referred to the untenability of his position with the Revisionists attacking him ceaselessly for refusing to finance their enterprises and the Jewish Communists doing all in their power to get control of A.J.D.C. funds and administration.

He was unable to obtain an exit and re-entry visa to allow him to go to New York on business although the Russians had granted him clearance. The Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior told him quite frankly that this was the work of certain "influential Jews" in the Government who were determined to prevent his return once he left the country. He was also told by a Jewish employee at the State Security Department that no United States citizen would be allowed to replace him.

Jacobson's worried attitude and his sudden decision to leave Roumania without waiting for the question of his replacement to be settled and his insistence on the absolute secrecy of his conversation with Kendall gives the impression of personal fear.

We are copying this letter to B.M.E.O. Cairo and to the Secretariat, Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.



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19

Registry Number } E4553

FROM Rec. I.

No. Reguc

Dated 31

Received in Registry } 14,

29

Last Page

4553

Reference

(Print.)

(How disposed of)

81 P.O.
Admty. M.
✓ True

(Action completed.)

G. E. H. / p

Next Page

E 4553

264

E

E 4554

69

1947

PALESTINE

29 MAY

Registry Number } E4554/48/31
 FROM Res. J. Fowler
 No. Keganogolpa.
 Dated 39
 Received in Registry } 14, May 1947
 29

Illegal Immigration.
 Refer Keganogolpa lit 16 (E3943/48/9)
 Transmits copy of note No 11 of May 2 with
 enclosure to My. Foreign Office, also copy
 of reply of May 8, re interception, by British
 authorities, of the ship near of overboard flying
 Honduranian flag, suspected of being engaged
 in illegal immigrant traffic.

Last Paper.

4553

References.

(Minutes.)

Copy to Adty)
) refce.

Mr Beckett ^{WRB 5/6}
 (refce. meeting in
 Hd Chancellor's office) JB May 30
 Mrs Sullen ^{(Ltr to E3513/4) WRB 5/6}
 Mr F. ^{WRB 5/6}
 Mr. ^{WRB 5/6}
 Mr. ^{WRB 5/6}
 Mr. ^{WRB 5/6}

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

81. P.O.
 Admty. ref.
 ✓ June 4

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

J. E. 2/6/47
 [Signature]

Next Paper.

E 4570

You may care to note this in
 connexion with the President Warfield.
 If she leaves and attempts to land
 illegal immigrants we might get
 Ministers to reconsider arresting
 name her - with the consent of
 the Honduras Govt. given within -
 and taking her back to the
 place

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place of departure. It's worth bearing
in mind but as ministers wouldn't
do it for diversion to Cyprus there
is ^{perhaps} ~~not~~ much chance that they
would take this stronger measure

J.G.S. Beint
June 27

H33. 87
17

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By K.M.

No. 39.

Sir,

E 4554

29 MAY

British Legation,
Tegucigalpa, Honduras,

14th May, 1947.

71

With reference to my telegram No.16 of 9th May, 1947, regarding Jewish illegal immigrant traffic, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of my Note No.41 dated 2nd May, 1947, with enclosure, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting confirmation of the record of our conversations in connexion with the above subject, and a copy and translation of His Excellency's reply dated 8th May, from which it will be seen that he confirms the fact that the Honduran Ministry for Foreign Affairs have no objection to the interception, by British Authorities on the high seas, of any vessels flying the Honduran flag, suspected of being engaged in illegal Jewish immigrant traffic, and that, if proved to be so engaged, their Honduran certificates of registry would be considered as automatically cancelled.

2

2. I am sending copies of this despatch and enclosures, together with copies of telegram No.12 from the Foreign Office and my telegram No.16 in reply to the above, to His Majesty's Missions at Washington and Panama, and to Sir Alexander Cadogan.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

Russell G. ...

H.M. Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,
&c., &c., &c.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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- COPY -

72
British Legation,
Tegucigalpa, D.C.,
2nd May, 1947.

No.41.

Your Excellency,

With reference to our conversations at the end of March and the beginning of April last regarding vessels flying the Honduran flag and suspected of being engaged in Jewish illegal immigrant traffic, I have the honour to enclose a copy of the record of our conversations and should be very grateful if Your Excellency would be so good as to confirm that the statements under items (a) and (b) of the record are correct, and that the statement under (b) covers all ships on Honduran registry.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(sgd) Rees J. Fowler.

H.B.M. Minister.

His Excellency,

Señor doctor don Silverio Lafnez,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
TEGUCIGALPA, D.C.

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FO 371 / 61808

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- COPY -

73

British Legation,
Tegucigalpa, D.C.,

2nd May, 1947.

Record of conversation with His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding (a) the cancellation of the certificates of registry of Honduran vessels suspected of illegal Jewish immigrant traffic, and (b) their interception by the British Authorities on the high seas.

I discussed the above two points at length with His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs on March 31st and April 1st, and was informed as follows:-

(a) Cancellation of Certificates of Registry.

That under the "Ley Orgánica de la Marina Mercante Nacional" the certificate of registry of a Honduran vessel could not be cancelled without proof of illicit traffic.

(b) Interception by British Authorities on the high seas.

That he had no objection to the interception, by British Authorities on the high seas, of any vessels flying the Honduran flag, suspected of being engaged in illegal Jewish immigrant traffic, and that in proved to be so engaged, their Honduran certificates of registry would be considered as automatically cancelled. This applies to all ships on Honduran registry.

(sgd) Rees J. Fowler.

H.B.M. Minister.

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Reference:

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- TRANSLATION -

SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

No. 3393.

Tegucigalpa, 8th May, 1947.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Note No. 41 of the 2nd May, 1947, in which you kindly sent me a copy of the points we had discussed in previous conversations, in connexion with the illegal Jewish immigrant traffic which, it is presumed, is being carried out by some vessels on Honduran registry.

Your Excellency desires that these points, detailed below, be confirmed:-

(a) Cancellation of Certificates of Registry.

That according to the "Ley Orgánica de la Marina Mercante Nacional" (Organic Law of the National Mercantile Marine) the Certificate of Registry of a Honduran vessel cannot be cancelled without proof of illicit traffic.

(b) Interception on the high seas by British Authorities.

That there is no objection to the interception by British Authorities on the high seas of any vessel under Honduran flag which is suspected of being engaged in illegal Jewish immigrant traffic and if such illegal activities are confirmed, the certificates of Honduran registry would be considered as automatically cancelled. This applies to all vessels of Honduran registry.

In reply I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that this Secretariat hereby confirms the points in question in the form set out by Your Excellency.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(sgd) Silverio Lainez.

His Excellency,
Messrs John Fowler,
H. B. M. Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary,
British Legation,
TEGUCIGALPA, D. C.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61808

<p>135 1947 31</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E4541 /G 28 MAY 1947</p>
<p>E4541/48/9 Athens 221 Dated 22 May Received 29 May</p>	<p>Illegal immigration 76 Refs to O. G. 1103 (E4366/48/A) The note 226 to Kellenic H.F.A.</p>	
<p>Last Paper. (E4540)</p>	<p>(Minutes.) Copy Co. 1 MIS) usual names JB may 29</p>	
<p>References.</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.) 8/CO MIS ✓ May June end</p>		
<p>(Action completed.) 25 2/6</p>	<p>(Index.) W.D.</p>	
<p>Next Paper. (E4832) E4619</p>		

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29 MAY 1947

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221

Secret

E 4541

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Athens
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Embassy.....
Athens.....

22nd May, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office telegram No. 1105 of 21/5/47.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No. 226 (46/134/47) to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Dated 22nd May, 1947.	Illegal entry of Jewish immigrants into Palestine.

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FO 371 / 61808

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BRITISH EMBASSY

ATHENS.

No. 226.
46/134/47.

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to Note No. 25432 of the 6th May in which the Ministry were good enough to give assurances of the co-operation of the competent Greek authorities in all attempts to prohibit the illegal entry of Jewish immigrants into Palestine, have the honour to request that urgent action may be taken in the following matter.

His Majesty's Embassy understand that the S.S. "San Eusebio", now at Copenhagen, is attempting to obtain Greek registration, possibly through the Greek Shipping Commission in London. His Majesty's Embassy have learnt that the "San Eusebio" was previously registered under the Panama flag and that the Government of Panama have cancelled this registration on the grounds that the vessel was destined for the illegal immigration of Jews into Palestine and that the owner, Ioannis Iliadis, was himself deeply implicated in this traffic.

On instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, His Majesty's Embassy therefore have the honour to request the Royal Ministry to withhold the grant of Greek registration to this vessel or, if such registration has already been granted, to cancel it immediately. In the event of it being impossible to withhold or cancel the vessel's registration forthwith, His Majesty's Embassy trust that the Royal Hellenic Government will request the Danish authorities to prevent the ship from sailing pending such action.

His Majesty's Embassy presume that the Royal Hellenic Government are fully aware of the record and activities of Ioannis Iliadis but, in case this information is not readily available, they have the honour to enclose as an annexe to this Note a brief statement of this man's recent activities and of his interests in the shipping world.

The Royal Ministry will note that two of the vessels in which Iliadis has an interest, namely the "San Basilio" and the "San Spiridon", have recently had their Panamanian registration cancelled and it seems extremely likely that application for Greek registration may be made in the near future for them also. His Majesty's Embassy urge that the Royal Hellenic Government, in the spirit of co-operation which they have promised in the matter of limiting and prohibiting the illegal immigration of Jews into Palestine, should refuse Greek registration to any of the vessels mentioned in this list and should immediately inform His Majesty's Government if such applications are received.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

22nd May, 1947.

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22nd May 1947.

ANNEXE

San Eusebio (ex Nestor)

282 GRT. 145 Net. Sold in December 1946 by the Swedish Svea Line to the Cia. Cerro Pando de Navegacion, Panama, of which Iliadis is a share holder. Vessel arrived Copenhagen 13 Jan 47 en route for Marseilles. Her registration to the Panama flag was cancelled by the Panamanian Government on 4 March 1947, on the grounds that she was destined for the illegal immigration traffic.

Ioannis Iliades.

Born 31 May 1896. Holds Greek passport No. 66 issued in Belgium on 12 July 1946. He is a Greek Mercantile Marine officer and has a London address at 6 Coliseum Terrace, Regents Park, London, and is believed to be the owner of the firm of Ioannis Iliadis at 31 Stadium Street, Athens. Other directors in the Cia. Cerro Pando de Navegacion, Panama, are Menas Rethymnis and Leonidas Stathakis. Ioannis Iliades and/or the a/n company have been responsible for sending the following vessels, bought from the Swedish Svea Line, (director Emanuel Hogberg) to Palestine grossly overloaded with Jewish illegal immigrants:

- (a) S.S. San Dimitric, formerly Sodra Sverige, intercepted 30 Oct 46 with 1,300 (approx) Jews on board. 733 tons gross. Owned by Iliadis and Cia. Cerro Robalo de Navegacion, Panama.
- (b) San Miguel, formerly Runeberg, intercepted 16 Feb 47 with 800 Jews on board. 472 tons gross. Owned by Iliadis and Cia. Cerro Pando de Navegacion, Panama.
- (c) San Felipe, formerly Egil, intercepted 30 March 47 with 1,570 Jews on board. 749 tons gross. Owned by Iliadis and Cia. Cerro Pando de Navegacion, Panama.

The following are particulars of the S.S. San Basilio and San Spiridon, and other vessels which are known to be owned by Iliadis and/or the Cia. Cerro Pando Navegacion, Panama, or by associates of Iliadis.

- (a) S.S. San Basilio, formerly Vesterbotten. 611 tons gross 443 net. Built 1876. Sold by Svea Coy to Cerro Pando Coy of Panama, Oct 1946. Purchaser was Iliadis. In Gothenberg, Sweden, March 1947, with ice damage. Panamanian registration withdrawn 4 March 47.
- (b) San Spiridon, formerly Komung Oscar. 735 Grt. Built 1875. Owned by Iliadis and Cerro Pando Coy, Panama. At Stockholm, Sweden since Nov. 46. Panamanian registration cancelled 4/3/47.
- (c) San Dimilios, formerly Gifion. 642 Grt. 268 Net. Built 1913. Purchased by Iliadis on behalf of Cia. Serra Grade (possibly Cerro Pando) of Panama from Svea. Arrived Antwerp 17 Jan 47. Panamanian registry refused. Flag undetermined, possibly Swedish.
- (d) Aegean Star, formerly Atmah. Owner Iliades. Located Antwerp. Flag undetermined.
- (e) Marvink (or Mavrink). Owner Iliadis. At Marseilles since 21 Feb 47.
- (f) Shoreham. Ex R.N. sloop recently purchased by the Cia Maritima Geojunior S.A. of Panama, directors George Fokias (personal friend and business associate of Ioannis Iliadis) of 41a, Skoufa Street, Athens, and R. Lucraft and Andre Nicolas Lykiardopoulos now at Cardiff, Wales for repair. Panamanian registry refused.

/(g) Lowestoft.

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(g) Lowestoft. Ex aloop. Ownership as for Shoreham. Panamanian registry refused. Also at Cardiff for engine repairs.

(h) Lucia. 2,000 tons. At Plymouth, England, awaiting tug to tow her to Cardiff for repairs and refit. Ownership as for Shoreham and Lowestoft above.

(i) Katina, formerly Snapdragon. Owned by Cia. de Vapores Albatros, Panama. Directors Lueraft and Lykiardopoulos. At Haarlem, Holland since 7 March 47; Panama flag.

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1947

PALESTINE

E 4605

30 MAY

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 4605/48/31

40

minute

in Sect.

27 May 1947
30Illegal Immigration.Rever comments on minute by Minister
of Transport to Prime Minister of May 23.

Last Paper.

4571

References.

9 a.p.p. minute to Prime Minister by
Alfred Barnes, Minister of Transport 23/59 a.p.p. P. No. minute in 228/47 to
Minister Transport 23/5.

JD, June 2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

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26/7/48

Next Paper.

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The Minister of Transport's Minute to the Prime Minister of May 23, on Jewish Illegal Immigration

(he was going to show the original minute to the S/S)

I explained to Mr. Mc.Alpine this morning that Eastern Department were inclined to favour the proposed legislation in Gibraltar to prevent the departure of suspect illegal immigrant ships. Our reasons were:-

- (a) that in our representations to foreign governments that they should do likewise, our hand would be greatly strengthened if we could point to such measures by British Authorities;
- (b) if we failed to take such measures and ships left British ports, we should be in a very weak position in asking foreign governments to stop them in their ports.

2. Nevertheless, the fears expressed by the Ministry of Transport are founded, and it is only because of the urgent importance of stopping these ships and the fact that we are debarred from other measures by International Law that we have to resort to such legislation. We can only hope that the precedent will not be used against us in the future.

J.G.S. Beith
J.G.S. Beith,
May 27, 1947.

Mr. Evans.

The Governor of Gibraltar has already acted, according to this morning's press. As regards legislation in this country, I should have thought that we could entirely justify this, and safeguard our position, by reference to the U.P.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Minutes.

U.N. resolution.

P. J. J. J.
✓ 28/5

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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1. Eastern ~~Port~~ (to sea + return) 84
2. S/S
CMCA
23/5

PRIME MINISTER

Illegal immigration into Palestine

Owing to the difficulty of detaining effectively under existing powers ships suspected of being about to engage in this traffic, I have been asked to consider the possibility of taking new powers. I enclose a note which has just been prepared for submission to the Ministerial Committee seeking a decision on the points of principle involved. You will see that there are strong grounds of objection to any such powers as are proposed.

Meanwhile, however, there is a foreign ship in Gibraltar which is believed to be about to sail for illegal immigrants. She is being delayed, but under existing powers cannot be detained much longer. The Governor of Gibraltar is preparing new legislation to enable him to detain her, and therefore we must take a decision immediately whether we are prepared to authorise such legislation in Gibraltar. The force of the objection would be no less to legislation of this character in Gibraltar than in the United Kingdom.

My own view is as follows. The objections to legislation of this character are very powerful, and I am most reluctant to ~~these steps~~ being taken in Gibraltar or in the United Kingdom if any other way can be found of preventing this or any other suspected ship from sailing from a British Port. Nevertheless, I am strongly of opinion that we must stop such ships and if to do so we can only rely on legal measures, then I would be prepared to support the taking of the necessary powers, despite the risks.

In view of the urgency, I am submitting this direct to you. I am sending copies of this submission to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defence, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, so that they can comment if they wish; but I understand that they are favourable to the taking of the necessary powers.

(sgd) ALFRED BARNES

Minister of Transport.

23rd May, 1947.

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE
Powers to detain suspected ships in the U.K.

1. At the meeting on the 13th May a suggestion was made that since it was not possible to delay ships indefinitely it might be necessary to consider legislation in this country to detain suspected ships; and at the meeting of the Official Committee on the 16th May the Ministry of Transport were asked to consider this proposition and to report on the possibilities.
2. There are certain existing powers to detain ships, British and foreign, in United Kingdom ports under the Merchant Shipping Acts; but these are designed to serve the object of the Merchant Shipping Acts, namely, to prevent ships putting to sea in an unsafe condition. While these powers might be effective in certain cases in relation to ships suspected of being about to engage in the illegal immigrant traffic into Palestine they are not nearly wide enough for the present purpose.
3. As regards British ships of 100 tons gross or over registered in the United Kingdom, existing legislation under the Defence Regulations prohibits any such ship from sailing from any port without a licence from the Minister of Transport; and ships seeking to sail without a licence could, under existing powers, be prevented from leaving the United Kingdom. These powers could be extended to cover all British ships except those registered in a Dominion or India.
4. The object of detaining suspected foreign ships could only be effectively secured under new powers which could not be taken under the Defence Regulations but would require new legislation. This legislation might follow the precedent of the old Defence Regulation 19 (now revoked). The Regulation empowered any person duly authorised by a Secretary of State or the Admiralty to give, in respect to any particular ship or aircraft at a port or place in the United Kingdom, directions that the ship or aircraft should not leave that port or place until permitted to do so if such directions appeared to that authorised person to be necessary in the interests of the defence of the realm. In any legislation on these lines to meet the present case it would be necessary to find some other basis for the giving of directions than "the interests of the defence of the realm"; some specific reference to the object of preventing ships being used in the illegal traffic into Palestine would be requested. *required.*
5. There are powerful objections on two grounds of principle to legislation of this character. In the first place the giving of directions to detain a particular ship or aircraft would have to be in exercise of arbitrary powers of the executive, since we should be dealing only with ships suspected of being about to engage in illegal traffic, on evidence which could probably not be made public, or even if it could would be unlikely to stand in a court. It would follow that it would probably be necessary to exclude by the Bill any right of recourse to the Courts.
6. The second objection of principle is that as a maritime nation it would surely be most damaging to our interests to establish a precedent for such arbitrary executive action against ships of a foreign flag. We would undoubtedly lay ourselves open to the possibility of action by foreign countries against British ships in their ports, for they could argue that

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foreign ships could only come to the United Kingdom at the peril of detention.

7. The force of these objections might be somewhat lessened by explicit reference in the legislation and the powers thereunder to prevention of illegal immigrant traffic into Palestine and by relating our action to the recent Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations calling upon Governments and peoples to refrain from action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement in Palestine. We should have to be prepared for protests by foreign Governments against the detention of ships under their flags under such legislation.

8. It is submitted for decision whether in present circumstances legislation on the lines suggested is justifiable despite these two grave objections.

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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MINUTE**

entry 87 EHV

SERIAL No. M.228/47

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

Your Minute of May 23.

While I appreciate all the objections to this legislation, it seems to me that it is impossible to press other States to take action unless we are prepared to arm ourselves with powers.

I presume that the immediate decision is required on authorising legislation by the Government of Gibraltar. I was not aware that any British ships were engaged in this traffic. Unless they are it would not seem necessary to legislate here. If such legislation is required, the Lord President must be consulted. I am prepared to give the required authority to the Governor of Gibraltar.

C.R.A. B.C.

23 May, 1947.

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